

Hafa Adai!

DPW urges community to properly discard used PPEs. **PAGE 2**
Attao: We need to account for every dollar. **PAGE 3**

75¢

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Sablan urges IPI's chief to release CBF records

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) has met with Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd. chairwoman and executive director Cui Li Jie, during which she asked Cui to consider releasing the records of how the Community Benefit Fund money has been distributed.



Sablan



Cui

Sablan disclosed Wednesday that Cui, speaking through an interpreter, stated she would consult with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's legal counsel to see if there would be any issues with disclosure.

See **SABLAN** on **Page 4**

Prevailing wage survey begins

The Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division announced Wednesday the start of data collection for the 2020 CNMI Prevailing Wage Study, utilizing an online data collection portal system.

All businesses and employers in the CNMI, private and public, with employees or

with no employees, are urged to log on to <http://cnmidata.commerce.gov.mp/> and complete the Prevailing Wage

See **WAGE** on **Page 4**

ON THE NET

<http://cnmidata.commerce.gov.mp/>

ing Wage Study, utilizing an online data collection portal system.

All businesses and employers in the CNMI, private and public, with employees or

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, June 11, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	180	3	183
Recovered	163	5	168
Active	7	3	10
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	8,475		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	30	0	30
Recovered	19	0	19
Active	9	0	9
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested**	7,581		

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.



RELIEF DISTRIBUTION

The Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation held another food distribution yesterday, June 11, from 10am to 3pm at the Garapan Roundhouse.

KRIZEL TUAZON

Manglona to CEC: Prevent election fraud

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

With an election five months from now this November, Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) is calling on the Commonwealth Election Commission to take steps to prevent election fraud



Manglona

and implement the recommendations of the Office of the Public Auditor toward this end.

In a letter to CEC executive director Julie A. Villagomez dated

See **CEC** on **Page 4**

Huge Washington unemployment fraud is a warning to other states

By GENE JOHNSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE (AP)—The first word Seattle political consultant Dayna Lurie had that someone filed for unemployment benefits in her name was when her boss called.

"Did you quit without telling me?" he asked. "We got an unemployment form from the state of Washington saying you don't work here anymore."

It turned out that, like thousands of Washington state

See **HUGE** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Starting Wednesday this week, McDonald's on Middle Road opened its doors for dine-in.

PAGE 15



NATION

Protesters tore down a statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis in Virginia.

PAGE 16



ASIA

The number of coronavirus cases in India continues to rapidly increase Wednesday.

PAGE 17



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Local

DPW urges community to properly discard used PPEs

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Works have been doing their routine maintenance on prima-

ry roads since they went back to work and this wouldn't be so bad if they didn't have to

pick up face mask and gloves that have not been discarded properly.

According to Mike Borja, director of the Division of Roads and Grounds under DPW, picking up discarded face masks and gloves are a major health hazard, especially for his work crew who are picking up trash on the road.

"We are very surprised that most of the trash are masks and gloves," said Borja, adding that, with the COVID-19 pandemic still going on, people should be mindful with how they discard their personal protective equipment.

One of DPW's workers, who asked that he be identified only as Joe, said, "I think that many people don't realize that used masks and gloves

can be a threat [as] it can lead to further spread of the virus."

Although many of the CNMI's recent COVID-19 cases have been from in-bound passengers, Joe cited the COVID-19 case of a 39-year-old woman whose exposure to the virus remains unknown.

"The virus is already here. We need to do our best to take all precautionary measures... in order to help not spread it, and it's important that everyone get educated about proper and improper use of [face] masks and gloves," said Joe.

On top of their routine road maintenance work, DPW has also been sanitizing their offices, going so far as buying a gallon of alcohol since it's getting harder to find bottles of alcohol, and using PPEs.

Additionally, Borja stated that, although it wasn't mandatory, DPW employees (including the Workforce Investment Agency employees under DPW) have brought it upon themselves to get tested for COVID-19.

When testing capabilities weren't still available for the CNMI, Borja remembers going

sleep at night thinking that there could be a possibility that he could have COVID-19. Once the offer was on the table for anyone to take the test, he took it upon himself to get himself and his family tested. All of them tested negative for the virus.

"Even if it's not mandatory, I urge the community to get tested, so we can all have that sense of tranquility," said Borja.

To date, the CNMI has 30 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 19 recoveries, nine active cases, and two deaths.

COVID-19 in Guam

The Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 198 individuals for COVID-19 on June 10 with conclusive results. Two tested positive and 196 tested negative. One new case of COVID-19 was reported yesterday from the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

To date, Guam has 183 confirmed cases, with five deaths (not including the sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* who died in Guam), 168 released from isolation, and 10 active cases.



GET TESTED, MARIANAS!

The CNMI government has been putting up several signages and banners all over the islands and in major intersections to encourage people to have themselves tested for COVID-19.

KRIZEL TUAZON



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Attao: We need to account for every federal dollar

By IVA MAURIN

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REPORTER

Every federal dollar coming to the CNMI must be accounted for, according to House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan).

In response to the investigation being conducted on CO-

VID-19 overtime payments and contracts by the House Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding, Attao noted the significance of looking into all federal funding going to the CNMI.

"We created this Special Committee to look into the

federal funds that are coming in, not just for the COVID-19 but also to look at the history of all the federal funds that have been coming in or came in for the CNMI and in the future, should we get any future monies, so we don't have to repeat anything that we've done in the past," he said.

Attao is referring to "extraordinary payments" made to some government employees during Super Typhoon Yutu, now under investigation by the Office of the Public Auditor, based on a request for review made by the Office of the

Attorney General.

"Some say mistakes, some say they're not mistakes, but we need to account for every dollar that we spend, especially in these tough times that we're faced economically. We need to make sure that every dollar is stretched to its maximum before we just deplete our accounts," Attao said.

He added that it is frustrating for them, as members of the Legislature, that specific



Attao

departments are requesting for overtime payments even as many employees are being furloughed. Further, given that the pandemic not only affects the CNMI but the world, especially the United States, Attao said that "the 50 states will always come first before the territories."

He also questioned where the CNMI will find the funds, given that its main industry, tourism, is at a standstill. He noted that other states are hurt-

ing too, so the CNMI has to be smart with the dollars that it is getting from the federal government, and to be cognizant and protective of every dollar being spent.

"[We have to] have accountability and we have to answer to those monies. One way or another, we're [going to] have to answer, whether the feds take it away from us, or we're short, then a local level, we have to pay for it," he added. "It's challenging, it's very unfortunate, but the House Special Committee is really taking all of this stuff seriously."

Increased access to Guam wildlife refuge

In accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in coordination with Guam public health authorities, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is increasing public recreational access to the Guam National Wildlife Refuge-Ritidian Unit in Dededo.

The Guam National Wildlife Refuge is working with federal, state, and local public health authorities to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and is using a phased approach to safely increase access to wildlife refuge lands and facilities as rapidly as possible.

Beginning last June 10, 2020, the Guam National Wildlife Refuge Ritidian Unit reopened public access to beach areas, nature trails, and the Nature Center. Visitors should note that face masks/coverings are required before entry, use of hand sanitizer upon entry, and limit of 10 persons inside the Nature Center. Plant collection permits are available for visitors to collect coconuts, breadfruit, and/or certain medicinal plants. Tours and other programs will resume June 20, 2020.

As we continue to review access, services, and programs, a return to full operations at the Guam National

Wildlife Refuge Ritidian Unit will be phased in according to protocols set by local public officials. These decisions will be informed by the most current guidance and information from the Department of the Interior, CDC, Environmental Protection Agency and others to ensure the health and safety of those visiting and working at Guam National Wildlife Refuge are protected. We will continue to closely monitor conditions and adjust our operations accordingly.

We continue to urge our visitors to do their part when visiting the Guam National Wildlife Refuge and to follow CDC guidance to prevent the spread of infectious diseases by maintaining a safe distance of at least 6 feet between yourself and others; washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze; and most importantly, staying home if you feel sick.

Updates about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's response to coronavirus are posted at <https://www.fws.gov/home/public-health-update.html>. (PR)

Diabetes and Your Dental Health!

- Did you know that people with diabetes are more vulnerable to the millions of germs that live in your mouth?
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- Did you know that high blood sugars may cause dry mouth and make gum disease worse? (The decrease in saliva can cause an increase in tooth decaying bacteria and plaque build up.)

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Presumptive eligibility for Medicaid

On March 16, 2020, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres declared a State of Public Health Emergency for the CNMI due to the imminent threat of COVID-19. Due to the PHE, the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency designated the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. as a qualified entity to make presumptive eligibility determinations for all uninsured individuals and individuals whose attested gross income does not exceed 180% of the SSI federal benefit rate. The effective date is when CHCC makes a presumptive eligibility determination that a patient meets qualifications, which is not earlier than March 18, 2020, for the uninsured and April 1, 2020, for those meeting the income eligibility. The CHCC is Medicaid's primary provider of all medical and public health services, both inpatient

and outpatient (Public Law 21-28).

It is important to note that as long as the PHE is declared and in existence, presumptive eligibility will be available and we are encouraging the community to access the care they need as it is unknown to when this declaration will end.

What is presumptive eligibility?

Presumptive Eligibility is an expedited process of enrolling eligible residents into the CNMI Medicaid program. It allows patients to have their care covered while waiting for their application to be fully processed.

Who can apply?

PE is not limited to patients. The CHCC is assisting with PE determinations for family members of patients as well.

What are the requirements?

Eligibility for CNMI residents is based primarily on age, household size, and income.

What are the covered services under PE?

PE eligible individuals receive the same benefits as a standard covered enrollee in the Medicaid program. Some examples include, inpatient and outpatient services, prescribed drugs, dental services, physical therapy, and more. PE does not apply to services received prior to the Public

Health Emergency.

How long is Presumptive Eligibility effective?

PE is a temporary coverage provided by Medicaid for those who are currently uninsured. PE coverage lasts until the earlier of the end of the PHE, or if a full Medicaid application is submitted prior to the end of the PE period, the date an eligibility determination is made on that application.

Are there any co-pays required for PE clients?

No, just like standard enrollees of the CNMI Medicaid program, there are no co-pays required if you are determined eligible for PE.

How long will coverage last?

PE coverage ends at either at the end of the Public Health Emergency or if a full Medicaid application is submitted prior to the end of the PE period, the date when an eligibility determination is made on that application, whichever is earlier.

Do I need to provide verifications?

No, there will not be any supporting documents needed, except for proof of identification.

Will this cover any of my bills for services received prior to the PHE?

No, this will not cover any medical expenses incurred prior to the PHE. Although, we are able to assist with payment plans, if needed.

If I'm determined as PE-eligible but I have outstanding bills prior to the eligibility date, will that affect my ability to access services as CHCC?

No. PE Determination at CHCC is aimed to increase your access to CHCC services during the Public

Health Emergency and prior bills will not affect such access.

For more information about the CNMI Medicaid program, call (670) 664-4880. For information about P.L. 21-28, visit http://www.cnmilaw.org/pdf/public_laws/21/pl21-28.pdf. **(PR)**

HUGE

From Page 1

residents, Lurie's identity was used by criminals seeking to capitalize on a flood of legitimate unemployment claims by sneaking in fraudulent ones.

Washington's race to help newly laid-off residents as the coronavirus pandemic ravaged the economy left it vulnerable to such scams, and last week officials hinted at the scope of the damage done: hundreds of millions of dollars paid out in fake claims. Much of it apparently went to a West African fraud ring using identities stolen in prior data breaches, such as the massive 2017 Equifax breach.

ERRATUM

In the story titled "House panel to look into AG opinion on Yutu overtimes" that was published yesterday, June 11, 2020, it was incorrectly edited and should state that the Office of the Attorney General has asked the Office of the Public Auditor "to review the circumstances in which overtime payments were allegedly made to some CNMI government employees during Super Typhoon Yutu." The online story has already been edited to reflect the correction. Our apologies for the error.

SABLAN

From Page 1

IPI's mother company is the Hong Kong-based Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd.

Sablan discussed how she brought up the Community Benefit Fund issue with Cui in response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry about their meeting.

She said the meeting happened over lunch Tuesday at a small Chinese restaurant in Garapan. Sablan said she paid for her share of the meal.

The lawmaker recounted that at last week's joint hearing of the House and Senate gaming committees and the Commonwealth Casino Commission, she requested that IPI representatives who were present in the gallery be invited to provide testimony and answer some questions that that CCC members were not able to answer as they were bound by legal restrictions.

She said these individuals were not willing to speak with lawmakers that day, however. One of the IPI representatives, a certain Mr. Sung Hongtao, told her during recess that he was not actually authorized to speak on behalf of IPI.

Sablan said Sung stated that he did not have any formal position with IPI, and had other investments in the CNMI that he offered to share information with her about. Sablan said Sung invited her to meet with him at a later time, to which she agreed.

She said that during her meeting with Sung Tuesday at a restaurant

in Garapan, Sung, speaking through a translator, shared his development plans for the former La Fiesta Mall and Plumeria Resort properties.

"I mostly listened, though I was able to ask a few questions about his projects and also about his role with IPI," the lawmaker said.

About halfway through lunch, Sung told her that he had also invited Cui and that she would be joining them shortly.

"I was frankly surprised, but also curious. I had never met the chairwoman before," she said.

Sablan said Sung left for another meeting not long after Cui arrived.

Sablan said Jie, through an interpreter, described some of the many financial and legal challenges that IPI is facing. The lawmaker said she discussed with Cui in particular IPI's compliance with the Community Benefit Fund requirements in the casino license agreement.

Sablan said Cui was aware that CCC executive director Charlie Atalig had filed a complaint against IPI related to the CBF violations.

Sablan said she learned then that IPI is disputing its CBF obligations and is now in communication with the Lottery Commission to negotiate another amendment to the casino license agreement.

She said she noted to Cui that members of the Legislature have asked CCC to disclose how CBF funds have been distributed since 2018, but that IPI management has refused to authorize the CCC to re-

lease those records to them. Sablan said she told Cui it would be in everyone's interest to be transparent about the use of those funds.

When asked if the meeting with Cui and Sung changed her view of IPI, Sablan replied, "Not really."

The lawmaker said she appreciated the time that Cui and Sung gave her to share their perspectives on IPI's mounting financial and legal troubles, and their frustrations with the government and business climate in the CNMI.

"I hadn't had a chance to hear them out like that before. I will say, the frustrations go both ways," she said.

Sablan said her concerns about IPI's future financial viability and compliance with the casino license agreement and the laws of the CNMI still remain. She said she is glad that CCC has finally initiated the process of examining IPI's financial suitability.

"IPI has a right to due process. The CNMI, also, has a right to expect that the exclusive casino licensee will follow the law and honor all its obligations," Sablan pointed out.

Earlier this week, Sablan stated that Atalig's complaint against IPI for allegedly failing to contribute \$40 million in CBF money in 2018 and 2019 only affirms the facts that they have known for some time that IPI has indeed violated the casino license agreement.

Sablan said Atalig's complaint also affirms that the Commonwealth is unable to account for more than \$30 million in CBF monies that IPI should have distributed for public purposes.

CEC

From Page 1

June 10, 2020, Manglona urged the CEC to review the OPA conclusions and recommendations, make appropriate changes to prevent fraud, and instill voter confidence in the 2020 election.

According to the senator, the OPA report, which reviewed the CNMI election in 2018, reveals "great concerns" on the accountability of ballots, inventory, and the training of poll workers. "The 2020 election is fast approaching and the issues raised in the report must be addressed in totality to ensure that the same issues do not occur in the upcoming 2020 election," said Manglona.

OPA released the report in January, highlighting CEC's lack of accountability for the ballots received and available, and on the total ballots used and unused remain unresolved. OPA called CEC's inability to account for the ballots "very concerning." OPA also said that the lack of a standard process to account for all the ballots prevents the commission from identifying irregularities and potential fraud.

Manglona also noted that aside from not being able to account the total blank votes received, and the total number of ballots, accountability

forms were also not provided to three polling sites and for the ballots given to Rota and Tinian commissioners for over-the-counter requests.

The CEC, according to the senator, must also update the absentee voters master list; and resolve issues concerning ballots cast by absentee applicants on election day as not being treated as absentee votes, and handwritten names on the voter roster not treated as provisional ballots.

"To ensure that the issues raised are addressed, CEC must review its procedures on inventory and accountability, conduct the appropriate training on the duties and responsibilities of the poll workers, and comply with all the election law provisions," he added.

To resolve the issues it identified in the 2018 election, OPA recommended for CEC to adopt and implement policies and procedures that would ensure proper documentation of ballots received, distributed, spoiled, and unused, including a supervisory review over ballot accountability, among others.

OPA had its last interview with the commission in December, where the recommended processes remained unadopted. Based on the status report, OPA is set to conduct a follow-up this month, to see if CEC has implemented the recommendations.

WAGE

From Page 1

Study survey questionnaire before June 30, 2020.

Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman noted that this online portal is in line with the CNMI government's move toward online public services and the use of technology.

"Upon entering the portal, businesses and employers will be prompted to create a username and a password. After creating a username and password, you will begin the survey by providing your company information and information for each of your employee. Be sure to allow yourself time to review and understand the survey instructions provided on the portal before proceeding to complete the survey," said Rabauliman.

The NMI US Workforce Act of 2018 requires the CNMI to publish a prevailing wage report annually for CW-1 visa determination and approval by the U.S. Department of Labor. Additionally, the 2020 PWS data will also be used to publish a separate report detailing the survey methodology with a more detailed occupational wage statistics for PERM, H-1B and H-2B determination and approval by the U.S. Department of Labor.

"While the COVID-19 pandemic presented some challenges for our government operations, we ask our private sector partners, businesses, and employers for their patience and to take some time and complete

this important survey. This will be our fifth round of a prevailing wage survey, but it is our second year in a row to conduct and publish a CNMI Prevailing Wage Report on an annual basis as mandated by the NMI US Workforce Act of 2018," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Rabauliman emphasized the importance of completing the survey and thanked the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, businesses on Rota and Tinian, and other CNMI community-based organizations for putting out the word on this important survey.

"The success of the 2019 PWS that was conducted by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce using mass email encouraged our plans to go digital with this type of survey. Preparations began early this year for this data collection portal; however, the unfortunate circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic created some setbacks. However, our hardworking team at the Central Statistics Division steadily worked remotely from home on putting the portal to work. I want to thank the governor and [Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios] for their leadership and everyone involved for making this great leap into making this data collection method possible," said Rabauliman.

For more information or if you have any questions and inquiries regarding the 2020 CNMI Prevailing Wage Study, contact the Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division at 322-3005/3007 or at cnmi.csd@commerce.gov.mp. **(PR)**

IPI: Request for 60 days to pay \$122K not unreasonable

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC argues that it does not deserve a drastic remedy like default judgment because it has not willfully, or in bad faith, violated any federal court orders in connection with a lawsuit filed by seven former workers against it.

IPI, through counsel Michael W. Dotts, said it lacks the economic resources to cover discovery sanctions and has done all in its power to obey discovery orders, despite being short-staffed after having had to furlough and lay off workers.

"IPI has taken affirmative steps to obey court orders and has fallen short on some, but these deficiencies do not warrant a drastic remedy like default judgment," said Dotts in IPI's response Wednesday to the federal court's order to show cause.

Last Monday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered IPI to explain why the court should not enter a default judgment against it for failing to comply with court discovery orders. That came after IPI told the court about

its failure to pay the sanctions and costs.

The violations refer to IPI's failure to pay \$29,459 in attorneys' fees and costs that were due last June 5, and failure to comply with various discovery requirements related to such matters as producing bank records, employee separation dates, and paper discovery. The third category of violations refer to IPI's failure to pay for and arrange for the transfer of electronically stored information from a vendor in Singapore to a vendor in the U.S. chosen by the seven former workers.

Manglona will hear the show-cause matter today, Friday.

In IPI's response and opposition to entry of default, Dotts said their failure to pay was unintentional and IPI is willing to pay but needs more time. He said the errors and omission in discovery production are minimal, not material, were unintentional, and that IPI wants to be compliant. He said IPI has found ways to resolve the electronically stored information debacle at no cost to plaintiffs, which will keep the data secure



Dotts

within the CNMI, and will mean IPI can comply with the discovery orders.

True, there have been violations by IPI of discovery orders, he said, but they do not support the entry of default

as a sanction.

Dotts said a daily sanction of \$2,000 is running until IPI's full compliance is obtained and that will (and is) motivating IPI to come into compliance.

The lawyer said there will be no prejudice to plaintiffs by the violations as they have yet to amend their complaint against IPI, and this matter is a long way away from trial.

Dotts discussed the actions that IPI has undertaken to comply with the court orders. He said default judgment is inappropriate because after being warned by the court of dismissal IPI has made every effort possible to comply with the court's orders. He said IPI has taken affirmative steps to produce at least some data, including 49,000 pages of data from WhatsApp, WeChat, and SMS messages from former IPI counsel Kelley Butcher, 38,986 pages of data from

IPI's senior vice president for security and surveillance Donald Browne's phone, 48,216 pages of paper production put in PDF format, a list of separation dates for alleged custodians who worked for IPI, and it has subpoenaed all alleged custodians, among other efforts.

Dotts said IPI should not be punished for its inability to pay the discovery orders during a time when its business has shut down because of COVID-19 and it lacks

money to even make payroll or pay its electric bill. He said IPI's request for 60 days to pay \$122,449 in total sanctions and costs that are due in this case during this time of economic turmoil is "not unreasonable."

Dotts noted that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has declared that default judgment constitutes a drastic remedy that should only be imposed in "extreme circumstances

and...where the violation is due to willfulness, bad faith, or fault of the party."

The plaintiffs are suing the defendants for allegedly forcing them to work long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions at the casino worksite, among other allegations.

In its response to the lawsuit, IPI said any wage claims by the plaintiffs are barred because they voluntarily illegally entered the CNMI to work.

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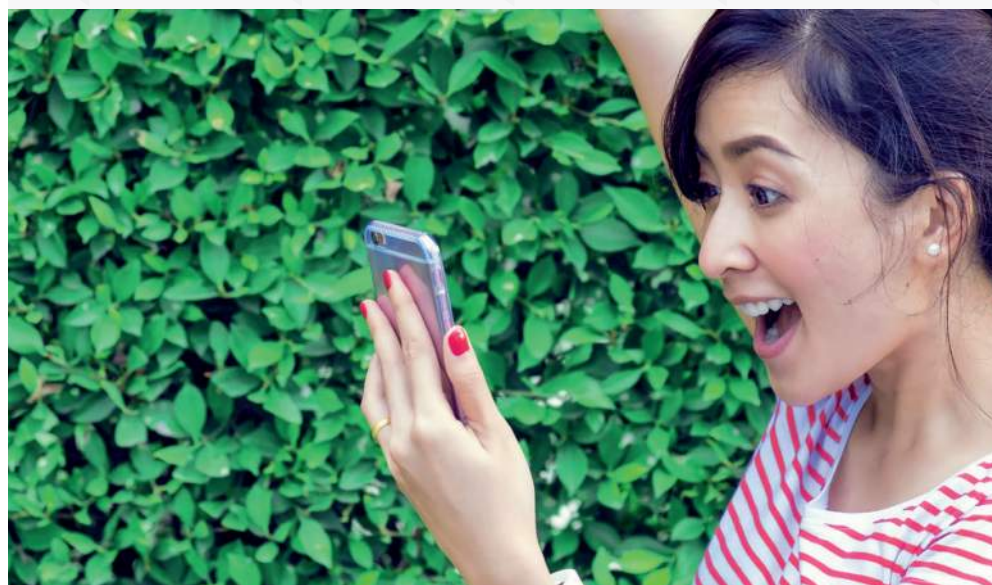
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DMS promotes 114

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dandan Middle School held a virtual promotion ceremony to honor 114 eighth graders who will soon start their high school journey. Last Tuesday, DMS posted a pre-recorded video of their virtual ceremony on YouTube and their Facebook page.

DMS principal James Sablan said in his congratulatory speech that the students' accomplishments speak loudly. "You are the group of students that have persevered, accepted challenges, have the ability to be flexible, have the ability to listen and follow directions, and to make decisions with logic and creativity," he said.

He said this batch of promotees are special because they have experienced and survived Typhoon Soudelor, Super Typhoon Yutu, and are now living through the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I wish you all the best in your future roles in high school and post-high school. I know you will succeed whatever career you choose... whether you choose to be a

doctor, a lawyer, a teacher, a farmer, a parent, or just being a simple person, just be the best you can be," Sablan said.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said the promotion of the 114 students is a major milestone that will be an example of grit and perseverance. "You brave students of the Marianas will forever be remembered as the class that overcame the odds, even with all the hardships our islands have faced. Remember all of the obstacles and never forget how you overcame them. Remember your hardships and never forget the spirit of never giving up," he said.

Vice principal Reo Arriola, who did the announcement of awards, said it was saddening that he wasn't able to see the students' smiling faces as they receive their awards. "This year's awarding is a bit different from the past events. It saddens me that we cannot see the surprised look and smiling faces of Tottots when they receive the awards. Recognition is a powerful way for our DMS community to continue forward even when it feels

like we're at a standstill," Arriola said.

Gracie Reign O. Mendiola, the recipient of the Board of Education Award for having the highest GPA, said she had good memories as a middle school student and she thanked her teachers for the lessons that made an impact on her life and helped her grow as a student.

Tyana Kay M. Cepeda, Commissioner of Education awardee, said she is already looking forward to high school.

The awards given out during the DMS virtual graduation ceremony were:

■ Gracie Reign O. Mendiola: Board of Education Award.

■ Tyana Kay M. Cepeda: Commissioner of Education award

■ Leadership Award: Danielle Kaye Formalejo

■ Tottot Award: Ocean Atalig Teigita

■ Most Improved Award: AnaLee Maria T. Aldan

■ Male/Female Athletes of the Year: Casey Cassandra Cruz, and Lenard Jovic Vendiola

Subject awards

■ English Language Arts: Gracie Reign O. Mendiola

■ Math: Austin Kumagai

■ Science: Gracie Reign O. Mendiola

■ Social Studies: Gracie Reign O.



Dandan Middle School.

KRIZEL TUAZON

Mendiola

■ Chamorro-Carolinian Language and Heritage Studies: Gracie Reign O. Mendiola

■ Physical Education: Tyana Kay M. Cepeda

■ Leadership Corps: Gia Manahan

■ Art: Johanna Mogar

■ STEM: Fatima Ito

■ Computer Literacy: Gracie Reign O. Mendiola

■ Video Production: Ale'a Duenas

President's Award for Educational Excellence (Gold)

■ Phillip Anton C. Aldan

■ Tyana Kay M. Cepeda

■ Elyna Collette N. Deleon Guerrero

■ Danielle Kaye C. Formalejo

■ Gracie Reign O. Mendiola

■ Oshiana Keilani S. Reyes

■ Siana Dorene F. Tasi

President's Award for Educational Achievement (Silver)

■ Ava Benavente

■ Shaonika Dionne C. Borja

■ Ty R. Cepeda

■ Casey Cassandra Cruz

■ Raymond John Deleon Guerrero

■ Ale'a Trinidad Duenas

■ Mark Phillip Nunez Leuta

■ Gia Kamille Manahan

■ Johanna Mikyla Mogar

■ Prashib Pandey

■ Reianah Francine Porras

■ Fanai Haveia Staffler

■ Mica Ella Del Mundo Sune

■ Kernel Bill Tagle

■ Issa Gertrudes Atalig Teigita

■ Oceana Dinrose Atalig Teigita

■ Tiana G. Torres

■ Faye R. Ubonge

■ Gwyneth Manebog Yumul

Public urged to participate in Living Archive contest

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Division of Coastal Resources Management is encouraging the public to participate in a series of competitions hosted by *The Living Archive*, an organization based out of Australia that provides a platform for individuals to tell stories and raise awareness about extinction in their communities.

Storytellers of all ages from the Marianas are welcome to participate and are encouraged to submit their story as it pertains to the loss of plants, animals, and places in the CNMI. Writers, filmmakers, artists, poets, cultural practitioners, students, farmers, conservationists, activists, can all submit their stories in their own unique way.

Stories can be submitted through written texts, such as short narratives, poems, or essays, short audio or video accounts, artworks, or photo

essays, as long as the story is accessible, engaging, and captures some aspect of the significance of a disappeared or disappearing plant, animal, or place.

Individuals from Australia, Hawaii, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Guam, and CNMI will all be participating in the competition and a winner will be selected from each region.

There are two categories, a young storyteller category (17 and under) and a general best story competition. The winner of each category will be awarded \$150 AUD (roughly \$100 USD) in prize money and the deadline to submit is on Aug. 31, 2020.

For more information and to see submissions guidelines, visit their website at <https://www.extinctionstories.org/2020/05/28/competition2020/> or call DCRM at (670) 664-8300. (PR)

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

RFP20-CHCC/CGC-DCMP-002

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 6TH, 2020 TIME: 10:00AM

"CONSTRUCTION COST ANALYST"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL. IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**Regular General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, June 17, 2020
10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

Saipan Mayor's Office Conference Room and Via Zoom

- Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Review and Adoption of Minutes
- Public Comments (See Note Below)
- Updates
 - SWDB Chair
 - Secretary CNMI DOL
 - DOL WIA
 - Executive Committee
 - Endorsement of NMC Apprenticeship Grant Applications
 - Planning, Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Committee
 - PY 2020-2023 State Plan
 - Negotiated Performance Levels
 - Program Committee
 - Policies and Procedure Committee
 - Adult Basic Education
 - Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- New Business
- Executive Session
- Announcements
- Next Meeting
- Adjournment

Note: Due to Covid-19 safety measures and limitation to public gatherings, if any member of the public is interested in making public comments or wants to attend the meeting via zoom, you can do so by emailing cnmidolwia@gmail.com at least 2 days prior to the meeting. You must have access to a computer to participate.

Approved by:
/s/
Josephine DLG. Mesta
Chair

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615 | Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Petitioner Jeffrey R. Kaipat

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CIVIL ACTION
NO. 20-0159

THE ESTATE OF
JUAN BORJA
KAIPAT,
Deceased.

NOTICE OF HEARING
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Date: Thursday, July 9, 2020
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Associate Judge
Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR
CREDITORS OF THE LATE JUAN BORJA KAIPAT OR HIS
ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Jeffrey R. Kaipat has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Juan Borja Kaipat, the deceased. The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to the attorney for Petitioner, CHARITY R. HODSON, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is further ordered, to avoid any unnecessary delays: (a) those who will be attending in-person in the courtroom, COVID-19 protective measures such as social distancing, use of mask and sanitizers, etc. are enforced. (b) those who will be attending via video conference shall file a Request with a Proposed Order. If granted, the party(ies)/attorney(s) shall contact the Deputy Clerk Adeline Tereyama at (670) 235-4261 or via email at adeline.tereyama@nmjjudiciary.com to test the video conference system in advance.

Dated this 5th day of June, 2020.

/s/
Judge Joseph Norita Camacho

DUE TO NON-PAYMENT OF \$6.9M COURT JUDGMENT**Court also OKs seizure of IPI's money from 2 title companies**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted on Wednesday the request of a contractor to also issue writs of execution to seize Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's money from two title companies to collect a \$6.9-million court judgment.

Manglona found Pacific Rim Land Development LLC's second application for writs of execution to have met the requirements of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and a Commonwealth statute. She directed the clerk to issue the writs of execution on Security Title Inc. and Pacific American Title Inc.

In its second application for writs of execution, Pacific Rim, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, informed the court that, aside from banks, IPI also maintains cash accounts in the CNMI in title companies, including Security Title Inc. and Pacific American Title Inc.

Thompson requested the court to issue the second writ of execution to transfer money owned or controlled by IPI from Security Title Inc. and Pacific American Title Inc.

Thompson asked the court to hold IPI's money in the court's registry or account until after hearing on exemptions, if any.

The lawyer requested the court to set a hearing on the return of the writ and to provide IPI with the opportunity to advance any applicable exemptions.

Thompson said IPI has not posted a bond and has not

obtained an order staying or suspending execution on the \$6.9-million judgment. The lawyer said the judgment remains unsatisfied in its entirety as IPI has not paid any sum.

Last Monday, Manglona granted Pacific Rim's first application for writs of execution on IPI's bank accounts.



Manglona

Following Manglona's order, District Court clerk Heather Kennedy issued Monday the writ of execution directing the U.S. Marshal Service to seize up to \$6.9 million of IPI's money from the

First Hawaiian Bank, City Trust Bank, Bank of Saipan, and Bank of Guam. Kennedy ordered the U.S. Marshal to deposit the seized money into the court's registry or account where it will remain until IPI has had an opportunity for an exemptions hearing.



Thompson

Last April 27, Manglona entered a judgment in favor of Pacific Rim in the amount of \$5.65 million against IPI for breach of promissory note. She later amended the judgment to incorporate pre-judgment interest and attorneys' fees. The clerk then entered an amended judgment in the amount of \$6.9 million plus post-judgment interest.

IPI has appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to reverse the judgment.

Pacific Rim is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators, saying it remains unpaid for the work it did for IPI on the casino-resort in Garapan.

IPI counsel Michael Dotts said denying stay pending appeal will not just force IPI to close its doors but it will

also leave 1,066 people on Saipan jobless.

According to court records, Pacific Rim and IPI entered into a construction contract on Feb. 13, 2018, for Pacific Rim to build a hotel-casino complex in Garapan. Pacific Rim eventually stopped work because IPI did not pay it the amounts owed under the contract.



IPI recently filed counterclaims against Pacific Rim.

We want to keep you connected**Payment Notice**

We want to help keep you connected to everything that matters to you. **Monday, June 15, 2020** is the due date for payments on all accounts. If you have any questions or concerns, we are happy to assist.

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Xavier High School - Chuuk



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St. John's School - Guam



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Comments sought on final MITT SEIS/ OEIS

The U.S. Navy has completed a final supplemental environmental impact statement for training and testing in the Mariana Islands.

The Navy is proposing to continue training and testing at sea and on Farallon de Medinilla. Proposed activities are similar to those occurring here for decades and are crucial for military readiness and national defense.

The completion of the analysis follows years of research, stakeholder en-

gagement, and public involvement. As the Navy is not proposing any changes to land-based activities in Guam and the CNMI, the Navy will continue to rely on the analysis in the 2015 Mariana Islands Final Environmental Impact Statement for those activities.

Individuals wishing to comment on the MITT Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS are encouraged to email the following address: info@mitt-eis.com. (PR)

HOPWOOD GRADUATION

The Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School had their 8th grade promotion yesterday at their own school grounds, where promotees got to get their awards and certification at the stage, which has not been used after the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

KRIZEL TUAZON



Da'ok Academy sees largest graduating class

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Da'ok Academy held a drive-thru commencement ceremony for its largest graduating class at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan yesterday.

This year, Da'ok Academy's Class of 2020 had 24 graduates; its first graduating class back in 2017 only had six graduates. In concession to the social distancing rules forced by the COVID-19 pandemic this year, the academy

held a motorcade and drive-thru ceremony as opposed to the traditional walk on stage.

The motorcade first made its way to the Northern Marianas Technical Institute in Lower Base to honor the institution that housed Da'ok Academy since the academy's building was completely damaged from Super Typhoon Yutu. The final stop of the motorcade was at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan where the graduates received their high school diplomas by driving up to the lobby.

Graduates were in their vehicles the entire ceremony for social distancing purposes and each graduate was given a custom Da'ok Academy face mask before the event for safety.

Alvaughnna Pua bagged nearly all awards possible, attaining the Overall Outstanding Achievement Award, Subject Area Awards in Math, Science, and English Language Arts, and she was also the recipient of the Women's Affairs Office Outstanding Female Graduate Award, recognizing excellence in leadership.

Da'ok Academy interim principal Jonathan Aguon thanked the Fiesta Resort & Spa management and staff, as well as TanHoldings, which owns the hotel resort, for their generous support of sponsoring the event.

"They made this event so much more special for our biggest graduating class. Graduation is a milestone for any young person's life, and it merits celebration," said Aguon. "It truly takes a village to educate and care for our students, and building a wholesome supportive system made today a reality."

The Public School System management was represented at the ceremony by Dr. Yvonne Pangelinan, Jackie Quitugua, and Dr. Bobby Cruz, along with the Student Support Services Office, Instructional Technology program, and other high school principals.

Awards

Outstanding Female Graduate Award: Alvaughnna Pua
Governor's Award: Bruce Romolor

Principal's Award: Jake Ra-bauliman

Shark Award: Travis Galang

Overall Outstanding Academic Achievement: Alvaughnna Pua

Math Award: Alvaughnna Pua

Social Studies Award: Patrick Acosta

English Language Arts Award: Alvaughnna Pua

Science Award: Alvaughnna Pua

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude. Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) ACCOUNTING CLERK

Must have a high school diploma. Degree in accounting is required; No more than 2-year experience. Knowledge of fundamental accounting; Strong knowledge of Excel and Word. Must be able to work evening, weekends and holidays.

(1) ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Must have a high school diploma. Minimum five (5) years' work experience with at least one (1) year of supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality. Degree in accounting is required; CPA preferred. Strong knowledge of Excel and Word and must be knowledgeable in using Opera Property Management System, MAS 90 (General Ledger, Accounts payable, Purchase Order, Inventory Management modules), Kronos Payroll System and WebCash Management System. Must be able to work evening, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Monday, June 29th, 2020.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance or online at www.picresorts/saipan/careers. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered. PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)
NMHC IFB 2020-007

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: July 13, 2020, 10:00am

Purchase and Installation of Modular/Prefabricated Units for Transitional Housing

Project package will be available on June 12, 2020, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30a.m. to 4:30p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held via video teleconferencing on June 25, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. through Zoom Video Communications. Bidders will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/ Vinney Atalig - Hocog
Chairman, NMHC Board of Directors

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON REHABILITATION PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-001-20 (AIP PENDING)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the rehabilitation of the aircraft parking apron at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Monday through Thursday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. No fee is required for obtaining the package.

Questions regarding this request can be hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office, emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater at wprater@cpa.gov.mp, or faxed to 670-234-5962, but must be submitted prior to the submission date mentioned below.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. The statements will be evaluated based on the criteria as detailed in the RFQ package.

The qualification statements shall be delivered to CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, by no later than **5:00 p.m., MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020**, Chamorro Standard Time (CHST).

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: 6/3/2020

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcpib.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcpib.net

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on **Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 2:30p.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairman's Report
- VII. Director's Report
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
 - Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
 - 1.) Legal Services Request #20-120
- XI. New Business
- XII. Applications for Board's Review
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

3A'S POLYSHINE Home of V-Kool Is looking for

(2) UPHOLSTERER (51-6093)

- Considerable knowledge of the practices and methods of upholstery works, and the use of machinery and equipment for upholstering.
- Ability to make upholstery and other repairs to furniture and interior of vehicles.
- Good knowledge of upholstery materials selections.

Salary Range: \$11.96/hour
Status: Full Time
Anticipated Starting of Employment: October 1, 2020

V-KOOL Marianas USA LLC Is looking for

(2) Window Film Installer (49-2096)

- Considerable knowledge of the industrial practices of adhesive window film installation
- Ability to work with varieties of window films and window glass surfaces and must not be afraid of height
- Ability to work independent with minimum supervision

Salary Range: \$12.30/hour
Status: Full time
Anticipated Starting of Employment: October 1, 2020

SIGNSATIONAL Is looking for

(2) Graphic Designer (27-1024)

- Ability to determine size and arrangement of illustrative material and copy, and select style and size of material
- Ability to create designs, concepts, and sample layouts, based on knowledge of layout principles and esthetic design concepts.
- Draw and print charts, graphs, illustrations and other artwork, using computer.

Salary Range: \$8.40/hour
Status: Full Time
Anticipated Starting of Employment: October 1, 2020

Please check more details of these announcement at www.marianaslabor.net Submit a typed resume or call 670-235-8938 to arrange for an interview.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Korey Tenorio via email at edsikayun@gmail.com

DANDAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Congratulations to all 8th Grade Promotees!
"Once a Tottot, Always a Tottot!"



Gracie Reign O. Mendiola
Board of Education Award



Tyana Kay M. Cepeda
Commissioner of Education Award

List of Promotees

Achas, Gabriel Nathan C.
Agulto, Roman Jr. P.
Aguon, Anton Jack C.
Aldan, Ana'Lee Maria T.
Aldan, Kenneth Anthony
Aldan, Phillip Anton C.
Aldan, Shanesse Kelsey V.
Armia, Ericka Jermaine M.
Atalig, Joshua Phillip D.
Babauta, Mariessa Renae
Baker, MJ William McPhetres
Belza, David M.
Benavente, Ava
Benavente, Jaden Anthony
Besong, Jaerius Mettao
Borja, Shaonika Dionne C.
Cabrera, Antonio Francisco C.
Calma, Ram Terrence R.
Camacho, Jessie Mark C.
Caponpon, Lyca Angela F.
Castro, Keoni
Catubo, Jan Eiran D.
Cepeda, Lurissa Leinoni A.
Cepeda, Ty R.
Cepeda, Tyana Kay M.
Cruz, Casey Cassandra C.
Damarlane, Santrez Jaze
Dela Cruz, Cogure Kunizu
Dela Cruz, Joey Vincent Jr. C.
Dela Rosa, Honarie T.
Deleon Guerrero, Bradley
Deleon Guerrero, Elyna Collette N.
Deleon Guerrero, Joel Delvin M.
Deleon Guerrero, Neil Lee C.
Deleon Guerrero, Raymond John A.
Deleon Guerrero, Sohayla Juanette T.
Diaz, Keannalyn Chanel A.
Duenas, Ale'a Trinidad

Duenas, Ryan Bernhard G.
Enis, Roger O.
Fejeran, Jryden Jahzny A.
Feliciano, River Oakley V.
Formalejo, Danielle Kaye C.
Gaangin, Erick Levi
Guan, Li Lin
Hembra, Mariel N.
Heras, Maria Sophia Gvan
Hossain, Bristhy
Inos, Juan IV Q.
Ito, Fatima Rose
Jicko, Drauzen Zeus E.
Joaquin, Trisha Mae Valdez
Joyce, Jasmine Elizabeth
Kaipat, Carmen Isabel S.
Kalaw, Rowell David Drake V.
Katosang, Dante Y.
Kumagai, Austin Jake DLG.
Leuta, Mark Philip Nunez
Licayan, Sean Ivan Y.
Lifoifoi, Jaren Allan B.
Lifoifoi, Jaron Albert B.
Litulumar, Luis Anthony
Magno, Adrienne Joy V.
Manabat, Isabel Rita P.
Manahan, Gia Kamille R.
Manglona, Tristan Patrick Ogo
Masao, Cleonie Baybie
Matagolai, Noecia Celina
McKinnon, Romeo
Mendiola, Briettajayne Lorijay D.
Mendiola, Emeling Marlissa N.
Mendiola, Gracie Reign O.
Mike, Jasmine Yvette
Mogar, Johanna Mikyla R.
Moritz, Faith Y.
Nakamura, Veronica Harryann T.

Naputi, Dolores Isabel DLG.
Nekai, Florencio Kale Q.
Nekai, Riana Nicole C.
Ogo, Christian Jay R.
Olaes, Angel Bert S.
Pandey, Prashib
Pangelinan, Gregorio S.
Pangelinan, Sammuel Joel
Pineda, Ira Jeanica Q.
Porras, Reianah Francine
Reyes, Cristian Josh A.
Reyes, Jon Joseph T.
Reyes, Oshiana Keilani S.
Sabino, Bernice Shane Q.
Sablan, Raechel Maria D.
Sablan, Ravin James S.
Saimon, Ronel Dean Anson
Sanchez, Nodalynn Antonia S.
Santos, Jayvin Junior S.
Shen, Lu
Singeru, Koleen Gina A.
Smith, Chalanthon M.
Staffler, Fanai Haveia
Stole, Jesse Jack Lizama
Sui, Cheng Lu
Sune, Mica Ella Del Mundo
Tagle, Kernel Bill Gentile
Taisakan, Daniel James Kaipat
Tasi, Siana Dorene F.
Teigita, Issa Gertrudes Atalig
Teigita, Oceana Dinarose Atalig
Tenorio, Leonardo Isidro Lee
Tolentino, Raymond Kyle
Torres, Tiana G.
Ubongen, Faye R.
Vendiola, Lenard Jovic
Wolf, Lars Anthony S.
Yumul, Gwyneth Manebog

DOL to host virtual conference for PUA and FPUC

The CNMI Department of Labor would like to inform the business community, government agencies, and the general public that it will host a virtual conference on Monday, June 15, 2020, to provide an update on the status of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation programs here in the CNMI.

The virtual conference, which will be held via the computer application Zoom, is from 9am to 10am.

It will also feature the general guidelines for completing Phase I and II of the program:

■ **Phase I:** Business registration and the registration of employees by respective businesses through HireMarianas.com

■ **Phase II:** The benefits application process for claimants

Individual arrested for alleged disturbance

On Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at about 1:23pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting harassment of a staff member of the Downtown Market in San Jose, Saipan. Police units that were dispatched to the scene met with the caller, who stated that the male individual that was harassing them had just left the store on foot and described the individual as bald, heavyset, wearing a pair of short pants and a red striped shirt. The officer notified dispatch and shortly after another unit spotted the suspect not too far from the scene.

The suspect was quickly identified from previous cases as Ryan Pua. The victim also positively identified Pua, and Pua was restrained.

In an interview with the victim, he stated that Pua walked into the store and began asking the victim, who was stacking some items in the store, what

through HireMarianas.com.

For businesses planning to join the Zoom meeting, pre-registration for this meeting is required. Pre-register at <https://tinyurl.com/CNMIPUAWebinar>.

Because the Zoom meeting has a limit of 100 participants, the CNMI DOL will be streaming this virtual conference live on Facebook through the CNMI Office of the Governor Facebook page. CNMI DOL encourages both employers and employees to watch via Facebook at www.facebook.com/GovernorCNMI/.

CNMI DOL upgraded its HireMarianas.com portal, a Virtual One-Stop System used by DOL's Workforce Investment Agency to register, track, and manage its clients, and to incorporate the mod-

was his race. The victim continued with what he was doing. Shortly after, Pua asked the victim, "You like I beat you up? I'm going to beat you up." The victim quickly made his way to a phone and dialed 911 as the suspect made his way to the alcohol section. The suspect then walked back toward the victim and stood less than a foot from the victim and asked, "Why is the beer so expensive?" At this time the victim was on the phone with dispatch. Pua quickly left the store on foot before the officers arrived.

When later confronted, Pua told officers that he did not do anything wrong and spat inside the patrol vehicle and toward the officers.

At about 1:39pm, Pua was arrested and cleared at Kanoa Resort before being transported to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained. (PR)

ules needed for PUA/FPUC functions. The system is used both regionally and nationally and has advanced security measures with a strong focus on data Confidentiality, Avail-

JRM installations to begin easing restrictions, maintain HPCON C

ASAN, Guam—Joint Region Marianas military installations are finalizing plans to resume limited services on base, adjust on-base restrictions for service members, civilians and families, and provide modified access for eligible patrons early next week.

Although the Indo-Pacific remains in Health Protection Condition C, we expect to methodically open up a greater amount of installation services and activities to patrons be-

ability, and Integrity.

In the event that you may need alternative means of assistance, are not able to access hiremarianas.com or need more information, you can email info@puamarianas.com

cause of the individual and collective efforts to follow preventative measures, such as face coverings, social distancing, and frequent handwashing.

While additional services will open up, we will continue to maintain the COVID-19 mitigation measures that have controlled the spread of the virus and enabled us to preserve mission readiness.

Protection of our total workforce remains the priority as we

puamarianas.com or call one of our PUA/FPUC hotline numbers: 670-989-9090, 670-

989-9084, 670-989-9081, 670-989-9089, 670-989-9083, or 670-989-9080. (PR)

ON THE NET

■ **TO REGISTER:** For businesses planning to join the Zoom meeting, pre-register at <https://tinyurl.com/CNMIPUAWebinar>.

■ **TO WATCH:** www.facebook.com/GovernorCNMI/.

return to full functionality. All facilities and services that re-open will still need to adhere to social distancing guidelines and other procedures to help ensure the well-being of all patrons.

Should the region experience an increase in COVID-19 cases, we will evaluate the need to revert to more restrictive policies in order to preserve mission readiness.

Please continue to monitor and follow Andersen Air

Force Base, U.S. Naval Base Guam, and Joint Region Marianas on Facebook and other social media platforms for information and updates:

■ Andersen Air Force Base - <https://www.facebook.com/Andersen36WG/>

■ Naval Base Guam - <https://www.facebook.com/USNavalBaseGuam/>

■ Joint Region Marianas - <https://www.facebook.com/jrmguam/> (PR)

UOG honors innovative student researchers

The Office of Graduate Studies at the University of Guam has named five awardees of its 2020 Graduate Awards, an annual competition that recognizes excellence, innovation, and impact within the university's master's degree programs.

The awards competition, originally launched in 2009, includes categories recognizing the most innovative research project, the research project with the biggest community impact, the most impactful graduate student, and the most impactful graduate faculty member. The pinnacle of the awards is the Presidential Research Award, which recognizes a well-organized and -analyzed research project that advances knowledge about the region.

This year's winners are:

■ **Innovative Research Award:** Arielle Lowe, Master of Arts in English program

Lowe researched "Chamaole"

identity formations based on her literary analysis of poetry by three "Chamaole" authors. Her project was innovative in its non-traditional literary studies methods, including creating community engagement and conducting qualitative interviews.

■ **Community Impact Award:** Hanna Jugo, Master of Science in Sustainable Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources program

Jugo's research explored the adaptive strategies to food security used within the Chuukese communities of Guam and Chuuk. Her research established justification for funding for a study that would document the levels of food insecurity in Guam and for USDA food cost studies that could ultimately adjust federal funding levels for Guam's SNAP, WIC, and school lunch programs.

■ **Graduate Student Award:** Justin Berg, Master of

Science in Biology program

Berg was actively involved in recruitment to the master's biology program as a student representative and in mentoring undergraduate and high school students, helping them design and run experiments, collect and analyze data, and create presentations on their work. Berg's personal research focused on environmental impacts on the health of coral reefs.

■ **Graduate Faculty Award:** Associate Professor of Experimental Psychology Paul Fleming, Master of Science in Clinical Psychology program

Fleming chairs eight master's thesis committees, meets weekly with each thesis student he mentors, and has immersed himself in clinical supervision, clinical services to clients, and graduate student consultation within the Isa Psychological Services Center.

■ **Presidential Thesis Award:** Edward Leon Guer-

rero, Master of Arts in Micronesian Studies program

Leon Guerrero's thesis project explored how young Chamorus in Guam articulate a sense of personal cultural identity despite a lack of fluency in the CHamoru language. His research formulated a set of attributes that young Chamorus consider to be culturally authentic to being CHamoru. The project "makes a significant contribution to CHamoru studies and Micronesian studies" and offers a set of policy recommendations for CHamoru language and culture advocates.

The winners in each category receive a \$100 prize. The prizes were sponsored by the UOG Endowment Foundation, the Research Corporation of the University of Guam, and the Offices of the President and Senior Vice President and Provost. Half of the sponsored funds went to the prizes, and the other half went to COVID-19 relief efforts. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 12, 2000

Bush presidency means better ties with CNMI

The chief of Republican candidate George W. Bush's presidential campaign for the Pacific islands stressed the importance of his victory in the November elections to improving strained relations between the federal government and the CNMI. T.E. Manase Mansur, liaison of the Bush for President committee for American Samoa, Guam and the CNMI, said the Texas governor has a track record of supporting local government. "Under a Bush presidency, you could be assured that there will be greater degree and mutual cooperation between the executive branch of the United States and the CNMI," he told reporters Saturday at the gathering of the local GOP at the Royal Taga Beach Club.

Ingram seeks more protection for cops

Public Safety Commissioner Charles W. Ingram, Jr. has asked the Legislature to broaden the definition of police officers in a proposed measure amending the Commonwealth Criminal Code which shall provide penalties on criminal misconduct against police officers. In a letter to Rep. Dino M. Jones, chair of the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations, Mr. Ingram said there are other members of gov-

ernment agencies who are not police officers but do have law enforcement powers. These include DPS Correction Officers, firefighters, range masters, special investigators, customs officers, fish and wildlife officers, parole officers, probation officers, Office of the Public Auditor investigators and possibly Superior Court Marshals.

June 12, 2004

Comments sought on reuse of Saipan dump

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the CNMI Department of Public Works are presenting options for the end use of the property where Puerto Rico dump is located. A meeting to detail options and solicit public comments is scheduled for Friday, June 18, 2004, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. This meeting will begin at 5:30pm and will include light refreshments. All are invited to take part in deciding what is the best use for the Puerto Rico dump property once it has been closed.

'It's management job to consult with water task force'

While noting that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors is not mandated to consult with the newly formed CNMI Water Task Force, CUC board chair Herman P. Sablan said that consulting with the group is mainly the CUC management's job. "There is nothing in the law that instructs the board to consult with the CNMI Water Task Force," he said Thursday, stressing that the board violated no law when it did not inform the task force on water issues. This came after acting governor and task force chairman Diego T. Benavente said that the task force was never consulted on CUC's reported plan

to invite private vendors to supply CUC with water.

June 12, 2008

Upward Bound students off to Hawaii, Calif.

Two students from the Northern Marianas College Upward Bound Program have recently been selected to attend four-week math and science summer programs in Hawaii and California. Kenneth Palec, a junior at Kagman High School, will be attending the program at the Leeward Community College campus in Pearl City, Hawaii, and Klynne Serrano, a sophomore at Marianas High School, will be attending the program at Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey, California. The purpose of the math and science summer program is to motivate and excite students to consider careers in fields requiring math or science, to increase academic skills, to prepare students for college programs, and to provide guidance for academic, career, and personal needs.

CNMI to see increased flights from S. Korea

Saipan could soon see a much needed increase in flights from Korea, Marianas Visitor Authority board chair Jerry Tan said during the organization's monthly meeting Thursday, a jump that could significantly bolster the island's tourism sector. Currently, Saipan receives four flights a week from Incheon, South Korea, yet Tan said Asiana Airlines is poised to change that to a daily schedule. "From all indications from Asiana Air, they will start increasing the daytime flights, which started last May, into a daily flight," Tan said during the meeting, held at the World Resort. Tan noted that the rate of Asiana flights from Busan could also see an occasional rise from four per week to six "in certain busy months, but not year round."

Two Xavier High grads win full scholarships to Sophia U

TOKYO—Two graduating seniors at Xavier High School in Chuuk have been awarded full scholarships to study at historic Sophia University in Tokyo.

Ampelina Maikal Sidney Johnson, better known as AM Sidney, of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia, and Kato Olmou Remeliik of Palau will attend Sophia University on APIC Scholarships.

The Association for Promotion of International Cooperation, a private foundation based in Tokyo, and Sophia University jointly fund the full-ride scholarships. The

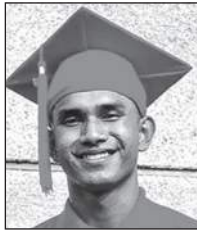
scholarships cover the four years required to complete an undergraduate degree at Sophia University, assuming the scholarship recipients remain in good standing.

“We’re pleased to offer AM Johnson and Kato Remeliik APIC scholarships to study at Sophia University. They are now part of a growing tradition of close ties between the Micronesia region and Japan, strong relations based on academic excellence,” said APIC president Peter Yoshiyasu Sato.

Six Xavier High School



Johnson



Remeliik

graduates on APIC Scholarships will be enrolled at Sophia University this fall. The scholarship has been offered since 2014.

Johnson, who is of Moki-lesse ancestry, is an honor roll student who was active in a wide variety of student leadership positions at Xavier

High School. She also participated in numerous community service programs, volunteering over 400 hours during her four years at Xavier High School. The recipient of the School Spirit Award, Johnson has been accepted into the new Sophia Program for a Sustainable Future.

Remeliik, who will enroll in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and will major in International Business and Economics, received Xavier’s Leadership Award. He was also active in community service programs, putting in over 400 hours dur-

ing his four years at the Jesuit mission school.

Xavier High School, which has been co-ed since the mid-’70s, has prepared many of the Micronesia region’s top leaders since opening its doors in 1952. Sophia University in Tokyo is one of Japan’s top research universities. Founded in 1913, it has nearly 14,000 students. Classes are taught in English and Japanese. Xavier High School and Sophia University are both affiliated with the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits).

APIC is a private foundation, based in Tokyo, whose mission is to strengthen Japan’s ties with nations of

the Pacific and Caribbean. It offers a wide range of programs for both senior and up-and-coming leaders in both regions. It is particularly active in the Micronesia region. (PR)

SHEFA deadlines

The deadline to apply for Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance is on or before July 1. The deadline for the supporting documents is on or before Sept. 30, 2020 along with your MOA if you are approved.

All supporting documents must be submitted at the same time via email to saipan-shefa@gmail.com or mail (except for your official transcript which could be sent via e-script, Student National Clearing House, etc., directly from your institution to SHEFA via email or mail). We will not be accepting incomplete documents.

If you do not have access to either and need to visit our office, email or call 233-5995 to schedule an appointment. For more information or to download the application or MOA, visit www.saipanshefa.net. You can also find SHEFA updates on financial assistance, office hours, job vacancies, and other news on our Facebook page @ Saipan SHEFA. (PR)

DOI backs fiscal accountability training, capacity building for insular area execs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Island Government Finance Officers Association has just ended their first virtual summer conference, which took place from May 26 to May 27, 2020, convening over 60 finance ministers and government finance officials from American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

This program is funded through the Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs.

In his remarks during the

conference, USVI Finance Commissioner Kirk Callwood congratulated each of the insular area governments for their hard work addressing the challenges created by COVID-19, praising continued work on improving single audits and compliance metrics. He noted that insular area governments are facing shrinking revenues and myriad challenges but expressed confidence that the islands will emerge from the crisis stronger than ever.

The IGFOA participants will now attend virtual conference sessions of the Government Finance Officers As-


sociation, along with finance officers representing various federal, state, and local governments of the United States and Canada. The virtual GFOA will be delivering sessions over the next four weeks on topics of significant interest, including accounting, budgeting, treasury management, public debt, employment benefits management, leadership, and other areas of public finance. The IGFOA is scheduled to reconvene virtually in mid-July to discuss GFOA session content and follow-up activities in the insular governments.

While GFOA conference sessions inform the insular government finance officials of emerging standards and trends in public finance, the smaller IGFOA focuses on practical implementation within the insular government finance offices. The administration and accounting responsibilities of the insular area governments include all services typically handled by a U.S. state, county, or city government, such as schools, public safety, roads, airports, seaports, hospitals, utilities, retirement plans, development authorities, tourism boards,


embassies, and immigration.

Funded through the Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Program, the IGFOA is comprised of government finance officials from the U.S. territories and the Freely Associated States and works to build the local capacity of their respective government finance offices through biannual meetings that provide technical training and strategic support in public finance.

Additional information on the IGFOA and the Pacific & Virgin Islands Training Initiatives can be found online at: <http://www.pitviti.org>. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-20-023

CHINA TOWN WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of China Town Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; relocation of water meters from private property to right-of-way, installation of gate valve assembly, air release valves, fire hydrant assembly, flush hydrants; existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **June 25, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-20-023, China Town Water Line Replacement Project”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 16, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*


All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 30, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Kirztie Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email kirztie.reyes@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technician Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division is now conducting the CNMI 2020 Prevailing Wage Study (2020 PWS) survey and notifies all businesses and employers, private and public, in the CNMI to log on to the CSD Data Collection Portal and complete the 2020 PWS survey questionnaire.

Every business and employer, even if you do not have any employees, is urged to complete this survey before June 30, 2020.

2020 PWS Data Collection Portal Link:
<http://cnmidata.commerce.gov.mp/>

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Don't bungle the ending of America's longest war

America's war in Afghanistan has dragged on too long. But the U.S. domestic political calendar shouldn't dictate when to end it.

Under the peace agreement signed with the Taliban in February, the U.S. promised to withdraw all its troops within 14 months if the Taliban adhered to its pledge to cut all ties to al-Qaida. Yet the Pentagon is reportedly drafting plans that could bring the last 8,600 U.S. troops home before November's election. Judging by recent tweets, that seems likely to be President Donald Trump's preference.

Even if an expedited withdrawal doesn't happen, floating the idea could prove damaging. The Taliban and the Afghan government are edging closer to their first direct talks. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and his rival Abdullah Abdullah have struck a power-sharing agreement; Abdullah now heads peace efforts. A reduction in violence for the Eid holiday held for more than a week. A logjam over prisoner exchanges may be easing.

A U.S. dash for the exit could stall this progress. It would deny the U.S. leverage—even as evidence suggests the Taliban has maintained its links to al-Qaida. The Taliban would have reason to drag out intra-Afghan talks, then seek to defeat government forces on the battlefield once the Americans leave. Trump's promise that the U.S. would "strike with a thunder like never before" if that happened isn't credible.

The departure of U.S. troops might not open the gates of Kabul to the Taliban, but without a viable peace process it would be the prelude to more years of bloodshed and stalemate. Afghan forces still depend on the U.S. for air support and funding; foreign contributions account for about 90% of their budget. It's unlikely the U.S. would keep spending at the current level, or that foreign military contractors performing other crucial tasks would stay in Afghanistan, if U.S. troops weren't there. And a chaotic scramble for power would jeopardize already fragile aid and commercial projects.

After nearly two decades of war, politics shouldn't dictate a decision as important as this. The U.S. should abide by the terms of its deal with the Taliban. If the insurgents want U.S. troops to leave sooner, they can fully disavow al-Qaida and accelerate the peace talks.

At the same time, the U.S. should continue to engage diplomatically with both sides and with regional powers to nudge those negotiations forward. It should work to maintain the flow of foreign aid to the Afghan government and civil society groups, and make clear that any Taliban attempt to seize power by force will threaten that funding.

Achieving anything like success in Afghanistan by next spring will be a herculean task. The U.S. shouldn't make it even harder. That's the least it owes its Afghan partners, and the thousands of Americans who have fallen on the Afghan battlefield.

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The bitter irony of revolutions

The ancient Greeks created new words like "paradox" and "irony" to describe the wide gap between what people profess and assume, and what they actually do and suffer.

Remember the blind prophet Teiresias of ancient drama. In the carnage of Athenian tragedy he alone usually ends up foreseeing danger better than did those with keen eyesight.

After a catastrophic plague and endless war, ancient democratic Athens was stripped of its majestic pretensions. Soon it was conducting mass executions—on majority votes of the people.

Throughout history, revolutions often do not end up as their initial architects planned. The idealists who ended the French monarchy in 1789 thought they could replace it with a constitutional republic.

Instead, they sparked a reign of terror, the guillotine and mass frenzy. Yet the radicals who hijacked the original revolution and began beheading their enemies soon were themselves guillotined.

It was not democracy but rather the dictator Napoleon who put an end to French domestic unrest.

He assumed more powers than had the executed Bourbon king Louis XVI, who had set off the revolution in first place.

The COVID-19 epidemic, the nationwide mass quarantine and the massive protests, looting, rioting and arson that all followed the police killing of George Floyd have resulted in similar paradoxes.

Social distancing and mandated lockdowns for months have been the source of endless fighting between the people and their governments. Red and blue states often adopted diametrically opposite policies.

But the massive demonstrations and rioting saw hundreds of thousands of protesters jammed together and often without masks. That mass disobedience to quarantining will teach us, better than any university modeling, whether the virus spikes or is indifferent to thousands who congregate in the streets.

The lockdowns were politically weaponized during this election year. Blue states thought the sinking economy would hurt President Donald Trump's reelection bid. Red states wanted to open up as quickly as possible to get the economy back and running before November.

Yet the mass progressive protests and violence forced an unplanned end to mass quarantining—and thereby inadvertently helped jump-start the country back to business. Those who despise Trump may have done the most to help him.

Blue states pride themselves for their liberal governors, big-city mayors, police chiefs and state attorneys general. But progressive urban bastions like Los Angeles, New York, Minneapolis and Philadelphia are also the ground zero sites of arson, violence and looting, where racial relations are the worst.

As violence spiked, there were public and private calls to disband or vastly curtail police forces throughout California, Illinois

By **VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

Tribune News Service

Victor Davis Hanson is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University and the author, most recently, of *The Father of Us All: War and History, Ancient and Modern*. You can reach him by emailing author@victorhanson.com.



and New York. But these were the very states where security and safety were the most unsure.

If blue city councils do manage to defund and/or dismantle their police forces, as a veto-proof majority of councilors has pledged to do in Minneapolis, they will teach Americans whether social problems, crime and urban decay are made better by the absence of their own police.

Our recent protests started out idealistically by calling attention to the racism that had allowed four Minneapolis policemen to kill George Floyd while in police custody. But that tragic killing sadly became overshadowed by protests and violence where cruel irony abounded.

White antifa arsonists occasionally helped torch black-owned small businesses—in the name of Black Lives Matter.

Liberal New York Times senior editors were damned as sell-outs and racists for allowing free expression on their editorial pages—by their own younger woke staffers who claimed to be more ethical.

Videos appeared of children screaming in cruel fashion that their own parents were racists. Professionals took a knee to own up to their supposed racist sins—in Maoist-like mass confessions. NPR asked listeners to decolonize their bookshelves.

The NFL now confesses it was wrong to have asked players to stand for the national anthem. But those very protests once sank their television ratings, turned off fans and slashed attendance.

Quarterback Drew Brees one day declares that he is disturbed when the American flag is sullied. On the next, he is shamed into apologizing for his patriotism—as if he was reprogrammed in a reeducation camp.

Zero-bail policies have released violent protesters hours after they were arrested—often to allow them to repeat the violence that got them arrested in the first place.

No matter—oblivious, the revolution only steamrolls ahead.

Women shave their heads to curb their "whiteness," by clipping off their "straight" hair, as if in some fairy tale their self-confessed white privilege disappears with their bangs.

See **REVOLUTIONS** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Kids give hope for less racist future

I learned of the murder of George Floyd not on the news or in a newspaper, but on my 11-year-old son's Instagram page. The story ran with the hashtags #EndRacism and #BlackLivesMatter and featured a series of images depicting the fight against police brutality and racial injustice.

When I asked my son what drew him to these posts, he answered: "Because without racism, everything would be fairer."

In the United States and throughout the world, young people are playing a prominent role in helping raise the volume of calls for racial equality. At a protest in Ohio, one young demonstrator, 9-year-old Aubrey Johnson, delivered a powerful message, shouting tearfully into a megaphone: "Black lives should matter as much as white lives."

Historically, children have been important in the fight against racism and for equal rights. For example, in 1963 thousands of

black children marched against racial segregation in Alabama, as part of a larger strategy to help keep the protests nonviolent.

But today's kids have greater tools at their disposal to amplify their call for racial equality. Digital technology has revolutionized how civil rights movements can respond to racism, inequality and police brutality. After meeting on social media, for example, six teen girls in Nashville, Tenn., organized a 10,000-person march in the city.

Keedron Bryant, a 12-year-old gospel artist from Florida, took to Instagram to share a moving song about racial equality. It went viral, generating millions of views and was even mentioned by Barack Obama in the statement he posted about the death of George Floyd on Twitter.

There is an assumption that each new generation will be more tolerant and open-minded than its predecessor. Evidence and trends certainly back up this theory. During the past 50 years, white support for segregated schools—a defining feature of racial prejudice—has significantly waned, according to Howard Schuman's book "Racial Attitudes in America: Trends and Interpretations."

Research also shows that younger white people are significantly less supportive of racial stereotypes than their older white counterparts. Exploring the effect the election and presidency Barack Obama had on whites' perceptions of African Americans, Susan Welch and Lee Sigelman's research titled "The 'Obama Effect' and White Racial Attitudes," found that negative stereotypes of blacks were least pronounced among younger whites.

Modern schools are also playing a role in teaching children about anti-racism. A former head teacher at a primary school in the predominantly white, working class town of Macclesfield, Cheshire, England, told me that encouraging racial tolerance

By **GABRIELLE PICKARD WHITEHEAD**

Tribune News Service

Gabrielle Pickard Whitehead (@GabsP78), a writer whose work is centered on issues related to equality, human rights and social and economic reform, lives in the United Kingdom.



and treating everyone with the same respect was a key ethos of the school.

"Antiracism was often a discussion point of assemblies and in Circle Time and the children would always embrace it with maturity and passion," the former headteacher said.

Black Lives Matter at School is a national coalition for organizing racial justice in education in the United States. The initiative was launched in opposition to a system that uses harsh discipline policies that push black students out of schools at rates disproportionate to their white counterparts.

By encouraging the end of "zero tolerance" discipline, implementing restorative justice, hiring more black teachers, mandating black history and ethnic studies in the school curriculum and by funding counselors instead of cops, the Black Lives Matter at School initiative is helping create greater equality and inclusion.

Whether it's the result of being taught about antiracism at school, following and sharing anti-racist content online, today's youth are less willing than prior generations to tolerate racism, giving us hope for a less racist future.

Trumpty Dumpty Tweeter Tales Acrostic antagonistic schismatic

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

He's Been on the Job Too Long

M.istaken identities—benevolent despot; demagogic dictator
O.ffensive photo ops offend major Christian religions
R.remove from office ASAP for all too obvious reasons
E.liminate the negative is not in his presidential tool box

T.orschlusspanik(German) alarmed, anxious his presidency is a flop
H.anisa(Yamana) habits, he takes actions he hardly expects to work
A.gita sufferer, he often has feelings of annoyance and gets upset
N.eeds to be voted out of office this coming November 2020

E.nveloped by enturbation, in a constant disturbed state of mind
N.adryv(Russian) anguish about his self rupturing, splitting part
O.ccasional obtundation, has a reduced level of consciousness
U.nderstands little of and wants less understanding of issues
G.rasping at straws to generate votes from his shrinking base
H.ad enough? He also votes by mail. Please vote him out.

B.A.S.E.: B.igly A.dmiration S ociety E.nigma

D.emagoguery damaging to democracy
O.bnoxious offensive oaf, online obstructionist
N.incompoop narcissist well known by all
A.ddlepate, a muddled mind, a contemptible person
L.iar liar, tweets on fire, thousands of lies grow higher
D.umb as mud, thinks with a thud, wifi denier

J.erkeball logic, his constitutional knowledge tragic

T.ry and name an American President as bad as him
R.ecent riots in big cities bring out the worst in him
U.S. allies chagrined but not surprised at his composure
M.oscow Mitch, a cheerleader with Senate sycophants
P.ence maintains a pathetic puerile and evangelical stance

4. more years of him is one of our nation's biggest fears
5. 4, & 3 star generals grimace under respective stars.

The jobs report shows deep racial injustice

The outrage driving protesters into America's streets runs many layers deep. At the top is the death of George Floyd and the horrible persistence of police brutality. The latest jobs report reflects another: the disproportional damage that the coronavirus pandemic is inflicting on people of color.

Although overall employment rebounded a bit, as the slow reopening of the economy allowed some businesses to bring workers back, the damage remains severe. As of May, about 52.8% of people aged 16 and older were employed, up a bit from April but still down from 61.1% in February, while the number of people reported as "absent" from work, as opposed to unemployed, suggests the drop has actually been larger.

For black people, the situation was even worse: Just 49.6% were employed in May, down from 59.4% in February—a decline of 3.2 million jobs. (Latinos experienced outsized losses, too.) Over the same period, white employment fell about 8 percentage points, to 53.4% from 61.3%.

The disparity was also visible in unemployment rates, which count only those people actively looking for work. The rate for black workers kept increasing in May, even as rates for other groups began to decline.

Black workers are vulnerable to the pandemic in more ways than one. Brookings Institution researchers Adie Tomer and Joseph Kane estimate that they occupy an outsized share—more than 15%—of "front-line" jobs that require physical presence, putting them at higher risk of contracting COVID-19. By some measures, they're also overrepresented in relatively low-wage service industries—think hotels, restaurants and retail—that are most affected by efforts to stop the spread.

Data beyond the jobs report confirm the disparate impact. In the weekly Household Pulse Survey conducted by the Census Bureau, some 55% of black households (and 61% of Latino households) reported a loss of employment income since mid-March, compared with 43% of white households. The inequity extends to entrepreneurs: The number of working black business owners declined an estimated 41% between February and April, compared with 17% for white business owners, according to economist Robert Fairlie of the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Sadly, this is no anomaly. Recessions tend to hit black people even more disproportionately than the current one has, reflecting a broader economic insecurity that stems from generations of discrimination. It's difficult to succeed if you grow up in a neighborhood with failing schools, inadequate health care, and

By **MARK WHITEHOUSE**

Bloomberg Opinion

Mark Whitehouse writes editorials on global economics and finance for Bloomberg Opinion. He covered economics for the Wall Street Journal and served as deputy bureau chief in London. He was founding managing editor of Vedomosti, a Russian-language business daily.



environmental and social hazards including lead poisoning and omnipresent incarceration—as far too many black Americans do. Even when they're equally qualified, they have a harder time getting job interviews and are paid less when they do get hired. When things get bad, they're among the first to be fired.

The pattern will repeat until Americans recognize and address the underlying inequities. One must hope that the toll wrought by the pandemic, and the voices of peaceful protesters, can generate the necessary political will – to reform law enforcement, defend civil rights, invest in communities and remove the obstacles preventing too many people from realizing their full potential.

In the meantime, governments at all levels must alleviate the immediate suffering. This requires redoubling efforts to get relief cash to the people who need it most, reducing barriers to accessing unemployment benefits, and expanding programs (such as food stamps) that are best designed to reach those in poverty quickly. It means ensuring people have the resources they need to stay safe, get medical help and care for their loved ones – for example, by expanding Medicaid coverage and paid sick and family leave. It's the least a society can do.

REVOLUTIONS

From Page 13

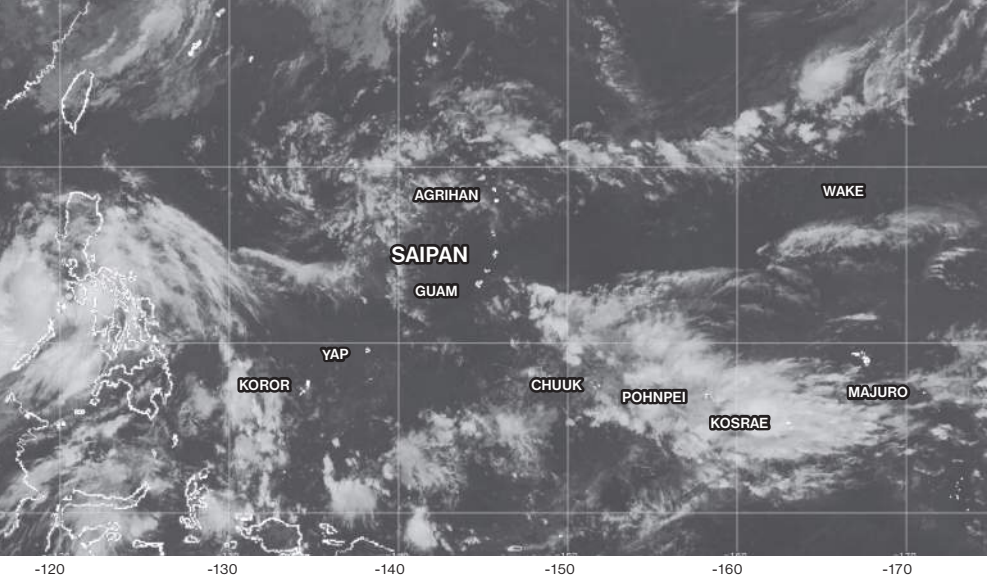
Demands rise that colleges must spend more for racial administrators and programs as they face insolvency and faculty layoffs.

Mayors who did not protect supermarkets and discount warehouse stores from burning and looting now demand that such terrified chains do not abandon their inner cities.

As these natural and mandate catastrophes continue, we see raw human nature stripped of its pretenses. The result is tragically ironic and often not a pretty sight.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
89°	79°	90°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:00 AM, THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies with spotty showers and gentle to moderate trade winds prevail across the region this morning. A surface trough is evident on the latest ASCAT analysis to the east-southeast of Guam, with an associated band of showers and isolated thunderstorms evident on the satellite imagery. Latest buoy observations show seas between 2 and 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- ### Continue good hand hygiene

 - Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

 - Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	88° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:25 AM	-
Saturday	12:15 AM	12:13 PM	-
Sunday	12:51 AM	1:00 PM	-
Monday	1:26 AM	1:46 PM	-
Tuesday	2:01 AM	2:32 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	61° / 55°	
Beijing	Sunny	93° / 66°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 81°	
Honolulu	Showers	85° / 75°	
London	Thunderstorm	73° / 55°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 63°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°	
Melbourne	Rain	55° / 45°	
Miami	Thunderstorm	83° / 77°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	72° / 60°	
Osaka	Showers	79° / 66°	
Paris	Showers	73° / 57°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	72° / 63°	
Rome	Sunny	90° / 66°	
Salem	Sunny	92° / 69°	
San Francisco	Sunny	67° / 53°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	79° / 59°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	77° / 66°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	74° / 63°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:35 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.96	
7:36 AM	LOW TIDE	1.29	
11:34 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.58	
6:50 PM	LOW TIDE	0.36	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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Business

McDonald's welcomes dine-in customers

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Starting Wednesday this week, McDonald's on Middle Road opened its doors for dine-in customers after it was closed for almost three months due to government guidelines on COVID-19 health and safety concerns. McDonald's area supervisor for Guam and CNMI Joe Ayuyu Jr., assures the public that they have created a safe dine-in environment that is safe for both customers and McDonald's employees.

"We learned that there was a lot to learn and now we are prepared after constant review and study of guidelines we received from the local mandates, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, McDonald's corporate, and from the national and federal levels... We tried to put all those together integrating some of our best ideas and implemented it," he said.

"We have trained and coached our staff with the opening of dine-in operations and we feel that we are comfortable and ready... As we clean the tables, chairs, and surroundings frequently, we have signages on tables to inform areas that been

disinfected and not... We want our customers to come back and enjoy the dine-in experience that many people really missed," he added.

Customers should expect to see rules and follow them once they enter McDonald's whether for dine-in and take-out. These are simple guidelines that will make the McDonald's "customer journey" highly satisfactory.

First, customers are asked to wear masks all the time (except when eating and drinking), follow footstep decals that will lead you to the counter that has "guard shields" to protect customers and employees, more decals are visible so customers will know where to go for dine-in or take-out, where to wait for orders to promote and maintain social distancing. Second, sanitize hands from sanitizers available upon entry. Third, more arrows will guide dine-in customers to the dining area. Only seven people with a party of four maximum for groups.

"The building code allows 93 people to be in the store and according to local mandate, restaurants can accommodate 25% of that as of now. We can have 23 people at the same time

and including employees, we can accept six to seven dine-in customers at a time... As we improve and look forward to reaching Code Blue, we can accommodate more customers and we are getting ready for that," Ayuyu Jr. said.

"To control the dine-in capacity, we have signs that says we have reached maximum capacity... The dine-in in Garapan will open later in the month... kiddie parties will be open in the future maybe when we are allowed to accommodate 50% or 100% dine-in customers," Ayuyu Jr. added.

For their part, owner/operator for McDonald's Saipan Marcia Ayuyu, said that their employees' safety is also a priority. In fact, all of McDonald's employees have undergone COVID-19 testing as part of their health protocol at the restaurant.

"McDonald's prioritizes the safety of its employees through daily temperature screening before every shift, frequent handwashing, and the use of gloves and masks all the time," she said.

McDonald's general manager Jocelyn Asistores said that opening their dine-in opera-



BEA CABRERA

McDonald's area supervisor for Guam and CNMI Joe Ayuyu Jr., shows changes made in the restaurant to create a safe dine-in environment that is safe for both customers and McDonald's employees.

tions will help bring families together and enjoy their favorite meals at McDonald's.

Although launched in 2016, Ayuyu Jr. said that the past three months has made their McDonald's "Mobile, Order and Pay" app a popular tool for people to skip the line and get their favorite McDonald's items. "We are happy to be in the forefront of the industry apps and technology because through MOP, customers can avail of this whether it is for take-out, drive-thru, dine-in, or curb side... After downloading the app, register

information, and when you place the order, make sure you are using the same phone you used to order and when you come to the store to pick it up."

"Once you're in the 100-yard 'geofence' from our router, we pick up your signal then it shoots into our system. That is the only time we can start making your food as we don't make your order while you are still up north or anywhere and 15 minutes away because we want to serve your food fresh and preserve the quality," he added.

Ayuyu Jr. said that he is anx-

ious and excited at the same time helping McDonald's resume back to its normal operations. "We are trying to do whatever is right for us and the customers, to make it safe and sanitized environment... the economy needs to open up because it is going to be hard for many people if we don't but we need to get there the right way."

McDonald's Middle Road is open from 6:30am to 9pm (both dine-in and drive-thru) everyday, while McDonald's Mobile, Order & Pay is open from 7am to 8pm every day.

CHICAGO—United Airlines is the first major U.S. airline to ask all passengers to complete a health self-assessment during their check-in process. Based on recommendations from the Cleveland Clinic, the "Ready-to-Fly" checklist asks customers to confirm they have not experienced COVID-19-related symptoms in the 14 days prior to flying. The assessment is part of United CleanPlus, the company's commitment to putting health and safety at the forefront of the entire customer experience.

"As people are returning to their daily activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, their health and safety — as well as the health and safety of others — should continue to be top-of-mind," said Dr. James Merlino, Chief Clinical Transformation Officer at Cleveland Clinic, a nonprofit academic medical center and a United CleanPlus advisor. "Our health experts are pleased to play a role in helping people travel more safely and we worked closely with United to develop a health self-assessment for its customers to better ensure precautions are taken before

beginning their journey."

In accordance with guidance set forth by Cleveland Clinic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO), the Ready-to-Fly checklist requires customers to click "Accept" to indicate they have reviewed the checklist during the digital check-in process on the United mobile app, United.com, on a United kiosk, or by reviewing and verbally confirming when checking-in with an agent at the airport to receive a boarding pass. The checklist includes the following:

- You must wear a face covering while on board for the safety of everyone.

- Have not been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 21 days. Have not experienced any of the following symptoms in the past 14 days (excludes symptoms from a pre-existing condition)

- Temperature of 38 C/100.4 F or higher

AS PART OF CHECK-IN PROCESS

United Airlines asks all passengers to take health self-assessment



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

United Airlines is the first major U.S. airline to introduce customer acknowledgment forms.

- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- Recent loss of taste or smell

- Have not been denied boarding by another airline due to a medical screening for a communicable disease in the last 14 days.

- Have not had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

The checklist also affirms customers are willing to abide by the airline's other safety protocols, including wearing a face covering, which is now mandatory for all employees and customers on board a United aircraft. Customers that are not able to confirm these

requirements and choose not to travel will be able to reschedule their flight. Customers may also choose to check-in at the airport for further review.

"The health and safety of our customers and employees is our highest priority, and we have been working closely with trusted medical experts and partners to institute new practices and procedures to further protect those who work and travel with us," said Pat Baylis, United's Corporate Medical Director. "United's 'Ready-to-Fly' wellness checklist sets clear guidelines on health requirements for our customers and helps minimize the risk of exposure during the travel experience." The health self-assessment is part of the United CleanPlus program, which also brings together one of the most trusted brands in surface disinfection—Clorox—and the country's top medical experts — Cleveland Clinic—to inform and guide United's new cleaning, safety

and social distancing protocols that includes touchless check-in for baggage at select locations, sneeze guards, and mandatory face coverings for crew and customers onboard our flights.

In April, United became the first major U.S.-based airline to require flight attendants to wear a face mask while on duty, and beginning in May, expanded that mandate to include all employees and customers on board. This includes front-line workers like pilots, customer service agents and ramp workers when on board an aircraft, along with any other United employees traveling using their flight benefits.

For full information on the United Clean Plus program, please visit united.com/cleanplus.

United's shared purpose is "Connecting People. Uniting the World." For more information, visit united.com, follow @United on Twitter and Instagram or connect on Facebook. The common stock of United's parent, United Airlines Holdings, Inc., is traded on the Nasdaq under the symbol "UAL." (PR)

Nation

Jefferson Davis statue torn down in Richmond, Virginia

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Protesters tore down a statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis along Richmond, Virginia's famed Monument Avenue on Wednesday night.

The statue in the former capital of the Confederacy was toppled shortly before 11 p.m., news outlets reported.

Richmond police were on the scene and videos on social media showed the monument being towed away as a crowd cheered.

About 80 miles (130 kilometers) away, protesters in Portsmouth beheaded and then pulled down four statues that were part of a Confederate monument on Wednesday, according to media outlets.

Efforts to tear one of the statues down began around 8:20 p.m., but the rope they were using snapped, The Virginian-Pilot reported.

The crowd was frustrated by the Portsmouth City Council's decision to put off moving the monument. They switched to throwing bricks from the post that held the plaque they had pulled down as they initially worked to bring down the statue.

The Pilot reports that they then started to dismantle the monument one piece at a time as a marching band played in the streets and other protesters danced.

A protester in his 30s was



hit in the head as the monument fell, causing him to lose consciousness, Portsmouth NAACP Vice President Louie Gibbs told the newspaper. The crowd quieted as the man was taken to a hospital. His condition was not immediately

clear.

A flag tied to the monument was lit on fire, and the flames burned briefly at the base of one of the statues.

The actions come amid national protests over the death of George Floyd who died af-

ter a police officer knelt on his neck.

A statue of Christopher Columbus in Richmond was torn down by protesters, set on fire and then submerged into a lake on Tuesday. News outlets reported the Columbus statue

AP
The Confederate monument is covered in sheets and bags in Downtown Portsmouth, Va., early Wednesday, June 10, 2020.

was toppled less than two hours after protesters gathered in the city's Byrd Park chanting for the statue to be taken down.

The death of Floyd, who was black, has prompted similar Confederate monument removals around the nation. Some people say the tributes inappropriately glorify people who led a rebellion that sought to uphold slavery. Others say their removal amounts to erasing history.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam last week ordered the removal of an iconic statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, which is four blocks away from where the Davis statue stood. A judge on Monday issued an injunction preventing officials from removing the monuments for the next 10 days.

Companies touting black lives matter face workforce scrutiny

SEATTLE (AP)—After hitting the streets to protest racial injustices, Sharon Chuter was disillusioned by the number of corporate brands posting “glossy” messages spouting support for black lives.

The 33-year-old founder of Uoma Beauty, a cosmetics company that caters to black women, came up with a social media challenge to test the sincerity of the companies: She launched the #pulluporshutup campaign on Instagram to push brands to reveal the racial makeup of their corporate workforce and executives.

The hashtag has since gone viral, amassing nearly 100,000 Instagram followers in a week. Chuter said it's a wake-up call for many businesses who couldn't see or didn't take seriously enough the silent racism and prejudices that hold black people back in their own workplaces.

“Reflection is painful,” Chuter said. “The truth hurts and I just felt like brands didn't want to do it.”

As protests over police brutality have erupted across the country over the past two weeks, The Associated Press

reviewed the diversity reports of some of the biggest companies pledging solidarity with their black employees as well as the black community, and found that their efforts to recruit, maintain and promote minorities within their own ranks have fallen short.

Microsoft has been posting powerful quotes on Twitter from black employees describing how systemic racism takes a toll on their lives. One employee, Phil Terrill, talked about the death of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who pleaded for air as a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee against Floyd's neck for several minutes, sparking protests around the globe.

“It should not take the death of Black people at this magnitude to inspire everyone to be an ally,” Terrill is quoted as saying.

Only 4.4% of Microsoft's global workforce across all brands, including retail and warehouse workers, identify as black, and less than 3% of its U.S. executives, directors and managers are black, according to the company's 2019 diver-

sity and inclusion report.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella addressed the issue in an email to employees, saying the company “must change first” if it wants to help change the world, and that it's investing in its talent pipeline by expanding connections with Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

“In order to be successful as a business in empowering everyone on the planet, we need to reflect the world we serve,” Nadella said.

Amazon is prominently displaying “Black lives matter” on its platforms and its CEO Jeff Bezos has been posting on Instagram racist emails he's received from consumers who are unhappy with the company for taking a stance.

But the company itself has been accused of hypocrisy for the troubling conditions reported by warehouse workers during the coronavirus pandemic. An AP analysis found that more than 60% of warehouse and delivery workers in most cities are people of color. Amazon's 2019 workforce data shows about 8% of its managers in

the U.S. are black, compared to nearly the 60% of managers who are white.

Courtenay Brown, 29, who sorts packages at the Amazon fulfillment center in Avenel, New Jersey, said she feels that Amazon's messages supporting justice and equal opportunity for blacks are not genuine. She said that most of the employees she works with at the center are people of color, but the higher-ups are white.

“As a black woman, I feel like it is empty words,” she said. “They don't help our struggles. Everyone wants to join in and profit from us.”

In the U.S., black people account for 12% of the overall workforce, but only 8% of management jobs, said University of Virginia professor Laura Morgan Roberts. The number of black CEOs of Fortune 500 companies peaked in 2002 with 12. Today there are just four.

Roberts' research looking at the careers of Harvard business school graduates found black alums got fewer prime opportunities, such as global assignments, than white graduates with the same degree.

Trump administration proposes sweeping asylum restrictions

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Trump administration on Wednesday proposed sweeping restrictions on asylum, seeking to align a legal framework with the president's efforts to limit immigration to the United States.

The moves are only the latest in a series of measures that Trump has taken to limit asylum—this time aimed at changing complicated guidelines and procedures governing immigration courts.

The changes, outlined in 150 pages of legalese, aim to redefine how people qualify for asylum and similar forms of protection to prevent them from being persecuted or tortured if sent home.

Judges will be allowed to dismiss cases without court hearings if supporting evidence is determined to be too weak. Rules will define when a claim may be declared “frivolous” and raise the threshold for initial screenings under the United Nations Convention Against Torture.

The administration will propose new definitions for some ways people qualify for asylum, specifically “political opinion” and membership in a “particular social group.”

Asylum is for people who face persecution for their

race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a social group, a loose category that may include victims of gang or domestic violence. Narrowing those ways to qualify would mean more rejected claims.

The Justice and Homeland Security departments said asylum-seekers who clear initial screenings will have claims heard by an immigration judge in “streamlined proceedings,” according to a brief press release, replacing longstanding rules in immigration law.

Since the U.S. became the world's top destination for asylum-seekers in 2017, the Trump administration has made multiple attempts to make it harder to get, asserting that the system is rife with abuse.

The Justice and Homeland Security departments said the changes would bring more efficiency to a system with an immigration court backlog of more than 1.1 million cases.

The rules will “more effectively separate baseless claims from meritorious ones,” the departments said. “This would better ensure groundless claims do not delay or divert resources from deserving claims.”

Asia

Asia Today: India surge continues with nearly 10,000 cases

NEW DELHI (AP)—The number of coronavirus cases in India continued to rapidly increase Wednesday, with officials reporting nearly 10,000 new cases over the past 24 hours.

The spike has come as the government moves forward with reopening restaurants, shopping malls and religious places in most of its states after a more than 2-month-old lockdown.

The government has already partially restored train services and domestic flights and allowed shops and manufacturing to reopen. Subways, hotels and schools and colleges, however, remain shuttered nationwide.

The Health Ministry on Wednesday reported an 24-hour increase of 9,985 cases and 274 deaths. India has recorded 276,583 positive cases, the fifth highest in the world, and 7,745 deaths.

The actual numbers, like elsewhere in the world, are thought to be fair higher due to a number of reasons such as limited testing.

More than 4.9 million tests have been conducted in the country of 1.3 billion people, with daily testing crossing 140,000 people.

Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and New Delhi are the worst-hit states with 90,787, 34,914 and 31,309 positive cases respectively.

In other developments in



Indians board a city bus in Ahmedabad, India, Wednesday, June 10, 2020. India's coronavirus cases are spiking amid government reopening restaurants, shopping malls and religious places in most of its states after a more than 2-month-old lockdown.

the Asia-Pacific region:

■ **RELATIVES STEAL BODIES IN INDONESIA:** Indonesian authorities said Wednesday they have arrested at least 33 people suspected of snatching the bodies of coronavirus victims from several hospitals to bury them according to Islamic and social customs. Charges for 10 of the people detained in South

Sulawesi province in the past week will be forwarded to prosecutors, provincial police spokesman Ibrahim Tompo said. If found guilty, they face up to seven years in jail and a \$7,000 fine for violating the health quarantine law and resisting officials, he said. Videos shared widely in the world's most populous Muslim nation show dozens

of relatives and friends forcibly carrying off the bodies of coronavirus victims from several hospitals, despite the strict health protocols in place. "What they have done could harm the wider community," Tompo said. He said some people believe the burial health protocols are unacceptable because of the Islamic faith and cultural traditions. Muslims usually bury their dead without a casket, and before burial the body is washed

with soap and scented water and then wrapped in a seamless cloth without plastic. Indonesia announced its highest single-day increase in confirmed coronavirus cases on Wednesday with 1,241 new patients, bringing its total to 34,316 including 1,923 deaths.

■ **KOREA TO REQUIRE QR CODE:** South Korea has reported 50 new cases of COVID-19 as officials began requiring nightclubs, karaoke rooms and gyms to register

their customers with smart-phone QR codes so they could be easily located when needed. Since late May, the country has been reporting around 30 to 50 new cases per day, a resurgence that has threatened to erase some of the hard-won gains against the virus. The nationwide requirement of QR codes at "high-risk" venues come after a weeklong trial run in the cities of Seoul, Incheon and Daejeon. The government is also encouraging churches, libraries, hospitals and movie theaters to voluntarily adopt the technology. Critics have raised privacy concerns.

■ **MALAYSIA LIFTS LOCKDOWN:** Malaysia reopened nearly all economic and social activities Wednesday after nearly three months of lockdown successfully brought down virus infections. Malaysians can now travel for domestic holidays, get their hair cut and visit street markets, while schools and religious activities will gradually resume. The government says the "recovery" phase will last through August, with certain prohibitions still in place. Night clubs, pubs, karaoke, theme parks and reflexology centers will stay shut. Contact sports or those with spectators and activities with big groups are still banned. Malaysia has had 8,336 infections and 117 deaths. Daily cases have dropped to only seven daily since Monday, the lowest since the lockdown started March 18.

South Korea to charge defector groups over North leaflets

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's government said Wednesday that it will press charges against two activist groups that have been floating anti-Pyongyang leaflets and bottles filled with rice to North Korea.

Any action against the groups is likely to trigger a debate over freedom of expression in South Korea, and whether President Moon Jae-in's liberal government is sacrificing democratic principles to keep alive his ambitions for inter-Korean engagement.

The announcement by Seoul's Unification Ministry came a day after North Korea said it was cutting off all communication channels with South Korea over its inability to prevent North Korean defectors and other activists from flying the leaflets across the border.

One of the targeted defector-activists condemned what he described as a "treacherous" move by Seoul and vowed to launch even more leaflets across the border in coming weeks, using not only balloons

but also drones.

Yoh Sang-key, the ministry's spokesman, told reporters the two organizations facing charges had "created tensions between the South and North and brought danger to the lives and safety of (South Korean) residents in border areas."

The ministry said last week that the government would push new laws to ban activists from flying the leaflets across the border, after the North threatened to end an inter-Korean military agreement reached in 2018 to reduce tensions if Seoul failed to prevent the protests.

Aside from severing government and military communication channels, the North also said it would permanently shut down a liaison office and a factory park in the border town of Kaesong, which have been major symbols of reconciliation.

For years, activists have floated huge balloons into North Korea carrying leaflets criticizing leader Kim Jong Un over his nuclear ambitions and dismal human rights

record. The leafleting has sometimes triggered a furious response from North Korea, which bristles at any attempt to undermine its leadership.

In 2014, soldiers exchanged fire after South Korean activists released propaganda balloons across the Demilitarized Zone, but no casualties were reported.

While Seoul has sometimes sent police officers to block the activists during sensitive times, it had previously resisted North Korea's calls to fully ban them, saying they were exercising their freedom.

Yoh said that the two groups, led by North Korean defector Park Sang-hak and his brother Park Jung-oh, violated a law governing inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation by sending unauthorized materials to the North. The ministry confirmed it was the first time the law, which is designed to prevent South Korean organizations from providing unauthorized goods to North Korea, was being used against defectors' anti-Pyongyang activities.

Filipina journalist braces for verdict in 'cyber libel' case

VIENNA (AP)—An award-winning journalist who has aggressively covered Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's administration is bracing for a verdict in a libel case and says she sees the upcoming decision as "an existential moment" for democracy in the Philippines.

Maria Ressa, the head of the Rappler online news site, was arrested twice in as many months last year, once for allegedly violating a ban on foreign ownership of news media and once for alleged "cyber libel." The latter was based on a complaint filed by a businessman who accused Rappler of linking him in a 2012 news report to illegal drugs, human trafficking and murder without getting his side or citing evidence.

A Manila court is expected to rule in the case Monday.

"This is an existential moment for us, for our democracy," Ressa said Wednesday during an online conference call organized by the Vienna-based

International Press Institute.

As the verdict nears, journalists worldwide have been rallying behind Ressa, who was named one of Time magazine's Persons of the Year in 2018 for her work combating fake news.

The International Press Institute said in a statement that the multiple charges brought against Ressa "are a transparent attempt to silence her and shut down Rappler in retaliation for its critical coverage of President Rodrigo Duterte and his administration."

During the online call, Ressa said she was putting her hope in the judge resisting political pressure, noting that a judge dismissed one libel case against her last year.

"It's been four years that we've been under attack for doing our jobs," she said. "I think that this is not an easy time for being a journalist, but I think that the mission of journalism has become more important today than ever."

When asked if she was afraid of going to prison, Ressa said she experiences fear as she faces "the great power of the state, but also anger that I have done nothing wrong but do my job."

She said she was embracing her fear so "I can take the sting out."

Ressa, who is CEO and executive editor of Rappler Inc., also pleaded not guilty to charges of breaching the ban on foreign ownership and control of media outlets in the Philippines. She and some media watchdogs described the charges as an attempt to muzzle independent media that are critical of the president, particularly over his deadly crackdown against illegal drugs.

The Duterte administration denied Ressa's legal problems were a press freedom issue, saying she and Rappler should answer before the judicial system like other violators of the law.

World

Worries mount of inequality increase from UK school closures

LONDON (AP)—Six months away from the classroom, at least. That's the prospect facing most children in the U.K., an absence that is likely to cause harm to their futures - particularly if they come from poorer households.

Concerns over inequality have grown following the government's decision this week to scrap plans for all younger students in England to return to school before the summer break in July because of the difficulties in meeting coronavirus social distancing requirements.

In a wide-ranging report about inequalities published Thursday, the well-respected Institute for Fiscal Studies think tank warned that an "already prominent attainment gap" between children in England from wealthier families and those from more deprived ones is at risk of widening.

"Unless there is a concerted effort to help these children once schools reopen, these wider gaps may well become permanent," the IFS said in the report, which is part of an ongoing analysis of inequalities chaired by the Nobel Prize-



In this Tuesday, June 9, 2020 photo, Doctor Nathalie Dukes dons PPE, personal protective equipment as she tests the measures taken by the practice to receive suspected coronavirus patients at Freshney Green Primary Care Centre in Grimsby, northeast England.

winning economist Professor Angus Deaton and funded by the Nuffield Foundation.

It noted that fee-paying schools are almost twice as likely to be providing online

teaching as those funded by the government attended by children from the 20% poorest families. Children from wealthier families also have better home facilities and are more likely to have private tutoring.

The authors of the report said poorer children in particular will need additional teaching once the crisis passes.

Although many English primary schools have been open all spring for the children of key workers—including

health care professionals and delivery drivers—the Conservative government had planned to give all pupils the chance to return following months of home learning.

Last week, the very youngest and those in their last year of primary school were able to return. The plan was that all others would return in stages since schools were closed in mid-March.

Now, most of England's 9 million or so schoolchildren will not go back to class be-

fore September, and maybe not even then if there is a new wave in coronavirus contagions. Secondary schools are not reopening except for some personal time for those set to embark on exams next year.

Anne Longfield, the Children's Commissioner for England, a position that promotes the rights of children, is urging the government to swiftly back a summer support scheme to reduce inequality in education and to extend funding for free school meals to those eligible.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the government was considering such a move.

"It's going to be a big summer of catch-up," he said. "We're going to keep making sure kids get the remedial help they need for the stuff that they've missed for months and months to come so that they genuinely make up for lost time."

Elsewhere in the U.K., Scotland and Northern Ireland have said schools won't reopen until August, while Wales is making plans to welcome students back later this month.

Thursday's report also found a widening in all measures of inequality - from wages to health and gender - amid the pandemic.

"In particular, some minority ethnic groups, people in certain key worker occupations, and those in low-income jobs—groups that often overlap—are at much greater risk," said Mark Franks, Director of Welfare at the Nuffield Foundation.

2 Brazil governors under fire in probes of COVID spending

RÍO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Two Brazilian governors came under more fire Wednesday over allegations of corruption related to COVID-19 spending, with one having his home raided and another set to face an impeachment process.

Federal police raided the government palace of Para state in the Amazon region as well Gov. Helder Barbalho's home as part of an investigation into alleged fraud in the purchase of ventilators for treating COVID-19. The search order targeted a total of 23 addresses in six states and Brazil's federal district in Brasilia, police said in a statement.

Barbalho is the second governor to be investigated in relation to suspect medical expenditures during the pandemic.

On May 26, police searched the residence of Rio de Janeiro state Gov. Wilson Witzel as part of an investigation into alleged irregularities in contracts awarded for the construction of emergency field hospitals. Rio legislators voted nearly unanimously Wednesday to begin impeachment proceedings against the governor.

Witzel has promised eight emergency field hospitals, but only one has opened, near the Maracana soccer stadium.

He denied any wrongdoing

and said he was the victim of political persecution.

"I am at ease about my innocence. I will keep on working as governor and will prepare my defense. I am sure that the deputies will judge the facts as they really are," said a statement from Witzel, who will continue in office unless the legislative process leads to his impeachment and removal.

Both Witzel and Barbalho have criticized President Jair Bolsonaro's rejection of quarantine measures to contain spread of the coronavirus.

The alleged fraud in Para stemmed from the acquisition of ventilators worth millions of dollars, done so without a call for bids as allowed by state of emergency protocols during the pandemic. The equipment deployment was delayed and ultimately useless for patients with COVID-19, according to the police statement, which said investigators are looking into allegations of money laundering and corruption.

The judge who ordered the raid froze \$5 million in the bank accounts of Barbalho and seven others, prosecutors said. They said there are indications the governor has a close relationship with the executive who supplied the

ventilators and also knew they were inadequate.

"I am at ease and available for any clarification. I acted in time to avoid damage to the treasury, since the resources were returned to the state," Barbalho said on Twitter. "I am not a friend of the businessman and obviously did not know that the ventilators would not work." During the operation, police found dozens of bundles of cash in a home belonging to Peter Cassol, former secretary of administrative management at the state health department, according to images shown by TV Globo. In the afternoon, the government announced Cassol's dismissal.

The Para government said in a statement that it had already gone to court to file for compensation from the suppliers for damages.

Para is Brazil's fourth hardest-hit state, with about 62,000 confirmed coronavirus cases and more than 3,900 deaths, according to official data, which is considered by experts to be a significant undercount.

Bolsonaro changed the head of the federal police in April, sparking suspicion of political interference in the force as alleged by former Justice Minister Sérgio Moro, who resigned.

US cooperates with WHO on Ebola despite Trump pullout threat

GENEVA (AP)—The head of the World Health Organization said Wednesday he and U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar have discussed cooperation to fight a new Ebola outbreak in Congo, even as the Trump administration is planning to pull the United States out of the U.N. health agency.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said he had a "very good discussion" with Azar last week, adding that "he assured me of U.S. continued commitment" especially against Ebola, soon after the new outbreak cropped up in Congo's Equateur province.

"We hope to work together with the U.S. to address that outbreak in western DRC," Tedros told reporters, referring to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Dr. Michael Ryan, the WHO's emergencies chief, cited nine lab-confirmed Ebola cases and three probable

cases in the new outbreak.

The cooperation will not involve any extra U.S. funding for WHO, Tedros and an HHS spokeswoman said.

Hopes for continued cooperation between the U.S. and the WHO come in the wake of President Donald Trump's repeated criticism of WHO over its handling of the coronavirus outbreak—notably on its alleged "China-centric" stance. The outbreak first appeared in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

Late last month, Trump said he was "terminating" the U.S. relationship with the WHO. But the conversation suggested that Washington still sees usefulness in continuing work and support for the agency.

"We have discussed with Secretary Azar to cooperate in helping DRC, but ... we're not receiving funding directly from the U.S.," Tedros told reporters at a COVID-19 news conference in Geneva. "But I have

said it many times: I think in our relationship with the U.S., it's not about the money."

"Working together—the relationship, I think—is more important, and hope we will work side by side to control or contain the outbreak in western DRC as soon as possible," he said.

Caitlin Oakley, a spokeswoman for Azar's department, insisted the U.S. would not provide funding to the WHO, but "is happy to provide technical expertise or guidance to help end this outbreak."

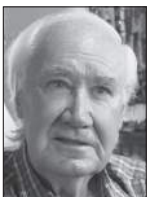
"Secretary Azar continues to demand accountability from the WHO in the face of multiple global health issues, including COVID-19 and Ebola," she said in an e-mail. "As with other Ebola outbreaks, the U.S. will provide assistance that is needed to those countries to end the outbreak at its source to protect the American people."

Off the Wall

Treasure chest hidden in Rocky Mountains finally found

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—A bronze chest filled with gold, jewels, and other valuables worth more than \$1 million and hidden a decade ago somewhere in the Rocky Mountain wilderness has been found, according to a famed art and antiquities collector who created the treasure hunt.

Forrest Fenn, 89, told the Santa Fe New Mexican on Sunday that a man who did not want his name released—but was from “back East”—located the chest a few days ago and the discovery was confirmed by a photograph the man sent him.



Fenn

“It was under a canopy of stars in the lush, forested vegetation of the Rocky Mountains and had not moved from the spot where I hid it more than 10 years ago,” Fenn said in a statement on his website Sunday that still did not reveal the exact location. “I do not know the person who found it, but the poem in my book led him to the precise spot.”

Fenn posted clues to the treasure’s whereabouts online and in a 24-line poem that was published in his 2010 autobiography “The Thrill of the Chase.”

Hundreds of thousands have hunted in vain across remote corners of the U.S. West for the bronze chest believed to be filled with gold coins, jewelry and other valuable items. Many quit their jobs to dedi-

cate themselves to the search and others depleted their life savings. At least four people died searching for it.

Fenn, who lives in Santa Fe, said he packed and repacked his treasure chest for more than a decade, sprinkling in gold dust and adding hundreds of rare gold coins and gold nuggets. Pre-Columbian animal figures went in, along with prehistoric “mirrors” of hammered gold, ancient Chinese faces carved from jade and antique jewelry with rubies and emeralds.

He said he hid the treasure as a way to tempt people to get into the wilderness and give them a chance to launch an old-fashioned adventure and expedition for riches.

Fenn told The New Mexican in 2017 that the chest weighs 20 pounds (9 kilograms) and its contents weigh another 22 pounds (10 kilograms). He said he delivered the chest to its hiding place by himself over two separate trips.

Asked how he felt now that the treasure has been found, Fenn said: “I don’t know, I feel halfway kind of glad, halfway kind of sad because the chase is over.”

“I congratulate the thousands of people who participated in the search and hope they will continue to be drawn by the promise of other discoveries,” he said on his website.



This Monday, April 8, 2019 file photo, shows the panda Xing Er at Copenhagen Zoo.

AP

Panda escapes from enclosure at Danish zoo; returned safely

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—One of Copenhagen Zoo’s giant pandas escaped from its enclosure early Monday and roamed the park before staff were able to sedate it and bring it back.

Xing Er, a 7-year-old male who arrived at the zoo last year, was seen on surveillance video breaking out of the newly built, 160 million-

kroner (\$24.2 million) Panda House that also houses female panda Mao Sun.

Zoo spokesman Bengt Holst said that on the video staff could see how “the male panda crawls up a metal pole, which is studded with three rows of electrical wires... and then crawls out into the garden.”

He said the park now was looking at making changes

to security around the enclosure “to ensure that it does not happen again.”

Zoo staff reacted “quickly and efficiently,” the animal was corralled and sedated with a dart without being harmed, he said. Monday’s incident happened before the animal park opened to the public.

“It doesn’t change the fact that we want to avoid that

kind of situation in the future,” Holst said. The enclosure to house the pandas from China’s southwestern city of Chengdu, was inaugurated by Queen Margrethe and other dignitaries in April 2019.

Beijing lends out pandas as a sign of goodwill. Any cubs born during the 15-year loan period are considered China’s property.

Alligator rumored to have been Hitler’s dies in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP)—An alligator that many people believe once belonged to Adolf Hitler has died in the Moscow Zoo.

The zoo said the alligator, named Saturn, was about 84 years old when he died on Friday.

According to the zoo, Saturn was born in the United States and later sent to the Berlin Zoo, from which he escaped when the zoo was bombed in 1943.

His whereabouts were unknown until 1946, when British soldiers found him and gave him to the Soviet Union, the zoo said.

“Almost immediately, the myth was born that he was allegedly in the collection of Hitler and not in the Berlin Zoo,” the zoo said in a statement.

But, it noted, “animals are not involved in war and politics and it is absurd to blame them for human sins.”



In this photo taken on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019, the alligator Saturn swims in water at the Moscow Zoo, in Moscow, Russia. AP

Florida city known for mermaids now sleeps with the fishes

WEEKI WACHEE, Fla. (AP)—A Florida city known for its mermaid shows now sleeps with the fishes.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed legislation on Tuesday dissolving the city of Weeki Wachee.

The city located about 50 miles north of Tampa was founded in 1966 to help put the Weeki Wachee mermaid attraction at a state park onto maps and road signs, according to the Tampa Bay Times.

But with only 13 residents, the city was insolvent and offered no visible services to



In this Aug. 16, 2007 file photo, performers with the Weeki Wachee mermaid attraction practice in Weeki Wachee, Fla. AP

a small business community paying its taxes.

The city’s demise will have no real effect on the Weeki Wachee Springs State Park, officials said.

The mermaids at Weeki Wachee State Park have been a staple of Florida tourism since 1947. Women dressed in fishtails perform underwater shows in the springs while viewed by an audience sitting in a theater on the other side of a glass partition.

The park is currently closed because of coronavirus concerns.

Police: Florida man lets 12-year-old drive Jeep 85 mph

JUPITER, Fla. (AP)—A Florida man is facing felony charges after police said he let a 12-year-old girl drive his SUV and told her to speed because he wanted to be a “cool father”—even though he is not her dad.

Shaun Michaelsen, 41, told the arresting officer Monday he is friends with the girl’s mother and that the girl and her friend were staying with

him for a few days, according to court records.

He said the girl had asked earlier in the day if she could drive his Jeep, so he thought “it would be cool” and that he was trying to be a “cool father,” the police report said. Michaelsen also told officers he had been drinking.

Jupiter Officer Craig Yochum said in his arrest report

that he spotted the Jeep make an illegal U-turn and then speed away at about 12:10 a.m. Monday. He followed and the Jeep reached speeds of 85 mph (135 kph) in a 45 mph (70 kph) zone before he was able to pull it over. He said that when he asked the 12-year-old why she was driving so fast, she said Michaelsen told her to.

Michaelsen is charged

with child neglect, allowing an unauthorized person to drive and causing a minor to become a delinquent for buying the girls vape pens—he says they requested, according to authorities.

He was being held without bond Tuesday at the Palm Beach County Jail. Court records do not indicate if he has an attorney.

Science & Technology

Personal mobility machine needs no help at Tokyo airport

TOKYO (AP)—An autonomous mobility system that works like a wheelchair without anyone pushing it is scuttling around a Tokyo airport to help with social distancing amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The personal mobility machine seats one person and runs on its own without crashing, even when people jump out unexpectedly, for about 600 meters (660 yards) on a pre-programmed route at Haneda International Airport, WHILL, the company behind the technology, said Monday.

WHILL Chief Executive Satoshi Sugie said robotics and autonomous driving technology that reduce the need for human labor are a good match for these times of “living with” the coronavirus.

“We are rapidly developing our business in order to help restore a world where people can enjoy moving around with peace of mind,” he told The Associated Press.

The ride lasts just several minutes, traveling from security clearance to the boarding gate at a maximum speed of 3.5 kilometers (2 miles) per hour. But hopes are high that



This photo provided by WHILL, Inc., shows the trial of the company's Autonomous Drive System at Haneda Airport in Tokyo in November, 2019.

the technology, which uses sensors and cameras, can help in other places, such as hospitals, parks and shopping centers. Labor shortages are a problem in Japan, as well as other nations.

Tests have been carried out at various airports since last year, including John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, and the company hopes to introduce it at airports around the world.

The person on the machine can start or stop it through a tablet controller. It runs on

lithium-ion batteries and returns automatically to where it started.

Anyone needing help walking long distances can use it at Terminal One at Haneda, for what's referred to as that “last-mile mobility,” according to WHILL, based in Yokohama, Japan.

Although vacuum cleaners, machines carrying things and talking robots are already moving about at airports and other places, personal mobility that runs autonomously is still relatively rare in public places.

Google quietly rolls out test version of Android upgrade

SAN RAMON, Calif. (AP)—Google has released a test version of its annual upgrade to its Android software without the usual fanfare heralding the latest operating system powering most smartphones.

The debut of Android 11's “beta” version was announced Wednesday in a blog post, along with video tutorials for the makers of smartphone applications on Google's YouTube service.

Android 11 will offer several new features making it easier for people to find notifications about incoming texts. It also gives users the ability to quickly open a digital conversation by pressing on a floating “bubble” identifying the person on the other end of a text. The new Android bubbles mirror a feature that Facebook has been using in its Messenger app for years.

The next version of the software also is designed to do a better job of guarding

people's privacy, something Google is frequently accused of invading as it collects information to sell ads.

Users will be asked if they wish to grant an app access to their location for one time only and then Android won't allow access until the user authorizes it again. Android 11 also will automatically identify when an app hasn't been used for an extended time and turn off previous permissions that users may have forgotten they granted in the past.

The beta version is primarily downloaded by app makers while Google continues to work out the bugs in the software before the operating system is offered for free to owners of smartphones running on Android. But smartphone manufacturers and wireless carriers don't always quickly push out the next version of Android software to users, leaving many devices running on older versions of the soft-

ware for years.

Google usually previews the next version of its Android software during an annual event held in May near its headquarters in Mountain View, California, with thousands of app makers and computer programmers in the audience.

But the pandemic forced Google to cancel that event this year and shift it to a virtual gathering that it planned to hold last week. But that plan also was scuttled amid the mass protests roiling cities across the U.S. in the wake of the death of George Floyd, a black man who died in police custody in Minneapolis after a white police officer pressed a knee into his neck.

The new versions of Android are quickly offered to owners of Google's Pixel phones, but those account for a minuscule fraction of the more than 2 billion devices running on various versions of Android.

TECH Q&A: What to do when a fast PC gets hot

Q: I have a 2-year-old Microsoft Surface tablet PC that gets hot to the touch after it has been on for about 3 minutes. This happens whether I use battery power or plug it into the wall outlet. I don't use complicated programs, just e-mail or Microsoft Word. I've run the PC's “diagnostic kit,” changed the battery power use options and looked at “task manager” to see if too much software is running (not much is), but it didn't help. What should I do?

A: There have been numerous reports of Microsoft Surface computers running hot. This is unpleasant for the user, and in the long run may harm the device.

There are some actions you can take, but they may not eliminate the heating problem entirely. Because you have already used the Surface “diagnostic kit” and checked the PC's “task manager” without success, try adjusting the device's “power mode.” It allows you to slow down the PC's processor chip and thus lower the computer's temperature. Click the battery icon at the lower right of the screen and slide the indicator to the left.

If that doesn't work, try using a different web browser (some browsers use the PC's processor more than others do.) Also make sure your PC

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

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has the latest updates of its software and firmware (firmware is computer code that's designed for a particular type of memory chip.)

If those things don't help, use “task manager” to turn off some non-Windows programs that run when the PC starts up (see “clean boot troubleshooting” at tinyurl.com/y8sbnn8r).

Q: I often get a “temporary error” when I try to open Gmail. If I do nothing, Gmail eventually opens. Is there a fix for this?

A: There are different causes of the “temporary error” in Gmail. They can be:

■ **JA network connection** wasn't made properly; this typically resolves itself in a few minutes.

■ **Web browser problems.** Update the browser, use a different browser or clear the browser cache (stored web pages) and cookies (bits of code that websites leave in your browser.) Disable browser add-on programs.

■ **Malware.** Run the free

version of Malwarebytes (see tinyurl.com/y3ju6ooov).

■ **A conflict between Gmail and your antivirus or firewall software.** Temporarily turn off those security programs. If that solves the problem, you will need to adjust your security software settings to exempt Gmail from scrutiny.

Q: I'm getting an odd Gmail notification on my iPhone. In the e-mail listing, the second line reads “This message has no body text.” What does that mean? Should I just delete the e-mail?

A: The correct Gmail notification for this problem is “This message has no content.” If you are getting a different message, such as “This message has no body text,” then the e-mail is a hoax (the phrase is the title of a song; see tinyurl.com/ybegotp9).

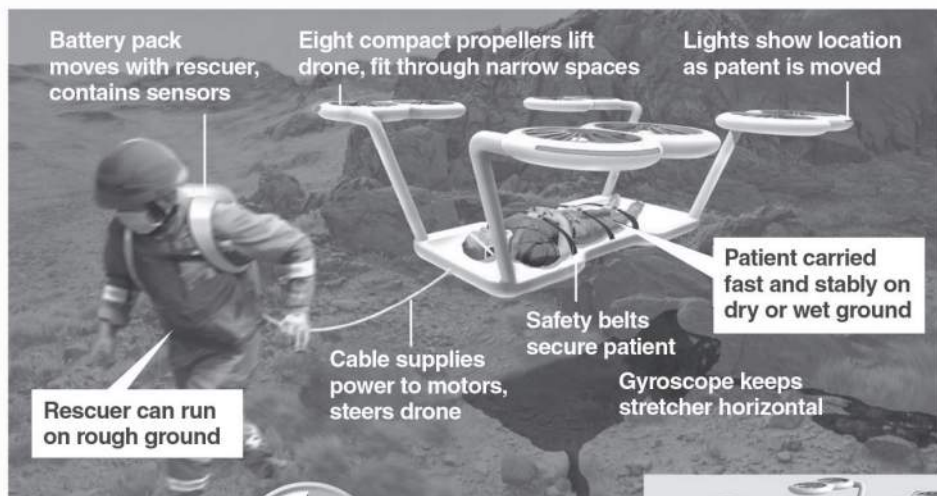
Rather than just delete those e-mails, move them to the “junk” folder, which adds them to the list of unwanted mail that Gmail tries to block.

Science Matters



How one rescuer can outrun a team

A new system lets one rescue worker — aided by a hovering stretcher drone — can outperform a rescue group in reaching and moving an accident victim over rough terrain.



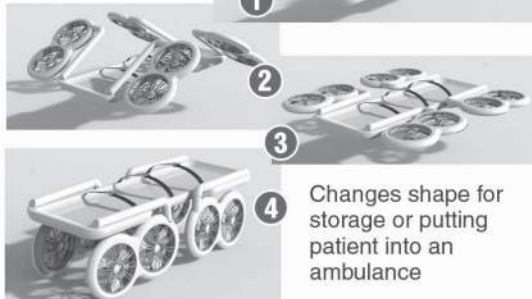
‘Follow-me’ feature

Drone senses motions of the power cable from the battery pack and follows the human's movements

Speed is crucial

Medical care delivered in the first 24 hours after trauma is most likely to save a person's life

Rotors pivot; drone folds



Source: Yunwoo Jeong of Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (South Korea)
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

White House balks, again, at Bolton plan to publish memoir

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House has told former national security adviser John Bolton that the manuscript of his forthcoming memoir still contains classified material and could present a national security threat. But Bolton's lawyer said Wednesday that publication will go ahead as planned on June 23 and he accused the White House of unfairly trying to keep it on ice.

John Eisenberg, a deputy White House counsel, wrote Bolton attorney Charles Cooper this week raising concerns that the manuscript for "The Room Where It Happened" still "contains classified information."

"As we advised your client when he signed the nondisclosure agreements, and as he should be well as aware as Assistant to the President for the National Security Affairs in this administration, the unauthorized disclosure of clas-



Bolton

sified information could be exploited by a foreign power, thereby causing significant harm to the national security of the United States," Eisenberg wrote in a letter obtained by The Associated Press.

Eisenberg added that Bolton would be provided with necessary redactions from the White House no later than June 19.

Cooper, writing in The Wall Street Journal, said White House lawyers have slow-walked the process because "President Trump simply doesn't want John Bolton to publish his book."

"This is a transparent attempt to use national security as a pretext to censor Mr. Bolton, in violation of his constitutional right to speak on matters of the utmost public import," Cooper wrote. "This attempt will not succeed, and Mr. Bolton's book will be published June 23."

Leaked passages from the manuscript roiled Washington in the midst of Trump's impeachment trial. Included was the revelation that Bolton said Trump told him he was conditioning the release of military aid to Ukraine on whether Ukraine's government would help investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter. The younger Biden was paid by a gas company in Ukraine to serve as a board member.

Greece to reclaim ancient horse from US after court ruling



This undated photo provided by the Greek Culture Ministry on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, shows an 8th Century B.C. figurine of a horse from the so-called Geometric period of ancient Greek art that was listed for auction by Sotheby's in New York in May 2018, with an estimated price of \$150,000-250,000. **AP**

The Greek Culture Ministry said Wednesday it would seek the repatriation from New York of a 2,700-year-old bronze horse statuette which it says was illegally exported from Greece, after a U.S. court rejected an auction house's bid to proceed with the sale of the artifact.

A ministry statement said the appeals court's decision was of "enormous legal importance" and would have broad implications for works of cultural heritage from other countries, too.

Culture Minister Lina Mendoni said the outcome was a major victory in the fight against the illegal trade in antiquities, a lucrative but brutal business that strips ancient artifacts of key cultural and historical information that a proper excavation would reveal.

"The ministry will proceed with every legal process to repatriate the statuette, stress-

ing that when stolen and illegally exported monuments are returned ... (the country of origin) regains a segment of its history," Mendoni said.

The ministry said the New York court ruled that in disputes concerning artifacts up for auction in the United States, or sought by U.S. museums, the laws of the works' country of origin will be applicable.

The ministry said the ruling published Tuesday rejected a bid by Sotheby's to proceed with the auction of the 14-centimeter- (5.5-inch) tall work from the 8th century B.C. that was part of a private U.S. collection.

The highly stylized figurine of a horse from the so-called Geometric period of ancient Greek art—a type highly popular with collectors—was listed for auction in New York in May 2018, with an estimated price of \$150,000-\$250,000.

Greek officials wrote to the auction house asking for the lot to be withdrawn and repatriated, arguing that it was of

Greek origin and had never been declared or granted an export license.

Under Greek law, all antiquities found in the country are state property. The country has a profusion of ancient sites spanning several thousand years of civilization, but lacks the means to adequately police them all from looters.

The ministry said that while Sotheby's did withdraw the statuette from auction, the house took legal action against Greece, seeking recognition that Greece had no rights to the work. It said Sotheby's won a first court case but Greece appealed, resulting in the decision published Tuesday.

Sotheby's said Wednesday that it and its client were "reviewing next steps."

"While we are disappointed with yesterday's decision, it does not impact what is at the heart of this matter—there is, and remains, no evidence to support Greece's claim to ownership of the bronze sculpture," the auction house said in a statement. **(AP)**

Top officials at Poetry Foundation resign amid criticisms

NEW YORK (AP)—Two top officials at one of the country's leading poetry organizations have stepped down amid criticism over its response to the protests against police violence and racism.

The Poetry Foundation announced Wednesday that its president, Henry Bienen, and board chairman, Willard Bunn III, had resigned, effectively immediately. CFO Kathleen Coughlin will oversee the foundation while it searches for a new president and the board's current vice chair, Caren Yanis, will serve as acting chair "through this process as the staff and board listen to the community and develop a plan of action."

Last weekend, more than 1,000 poets and foundation supporters issued an open letter calling for Bienen and Bunn to leave and be replaced by someone with "a demonstrated commitment to both the world of poetry and the project of creating a world that is just and affirming for people of color, disabled people, trans people, queer people, and immigrants." Endorsers vowed not to contribute any more work to the foundation's Poetry magazine until it made a "significantly greater allocation of financial resources toward work which is explicitly anti-racist in nature."

Earlier this week, more than 1,000 publishing employees staged a "day of action" in

support of the protests following the killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police and to call attention to the industry's acknowledged lack of diversity.

The poets' June 6 letter came in response to a statement issued three days earlier by the Chicago-based foundation, saying that members "stand in solidarity with the Black community, and denounce injustice and systemic racism." Signers of the letter, among them Ocean Vuong, Sam Sax and Erika L. Sanchez, denounced the statement as vague and lacking any commitment to concrete steps.

"It is an insult to the lives of your neighbors who have been targeted, brutalized, terrorized, and detained by the Chicago Police Department in the past week, including many Black youth," the letter reads.

Poetry magazine was started in 1912 and has published work by T.S. Eliot, William Carlos Williams and other leading poets of the 20th and 21st centuries. The foundation was established in 2003 after Ruth Lilly, heir to the Eli Lilly pharmaceutical fortune, donated \$100 million to the magazine, which at the time had an annual budget of under \$1 million. The foundation, which for years debated how to manage its exponential increase in money, currently offers a wide range of awards, workshops, readings and podcasts.

1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

† *Nieves Lizama Babaruta*

We cordially invite all our families and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate our dearly beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother's 1st Year Death Anniversary.

Daily mass of intention will be celebrated every day at 6:00 PM except Saturday, 6:00 AM & 6:00 PM and Sunday, 7:00 AM & 8:30 AM at San Roque Church commencing on Sunday, June 14, 2020 thru Monday, June 22, 2020.

On the final day, Monday, June 22, 2020, the Anniversary Mass will be offered at 6:00 PM at San Roque Church.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank you.
From the Family

What makes an American a patriot? Spike Lee has some answers

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Spike Lee was just 10 when Muhammad Ali, in 1967, refused to be drafted into the Vietnam War. It wasn't his fight, Ali said then. The Vietnamese "never lynched me."

Ali's stand, and the subsequent vitriol that came his way, made an enormous impression on Lee. His latest film, "Da 5 Bloods," opens with footage of Ali's speech.

"Everyone is all lovey-dovey with Muhammad Ali now that he's dead," says Lee. "But at one time, Muhammad Ali was the most hated man in America."

"Da 5 Bloods," which premieres Friday on Netflix, is the first major film to put the experience of black Vietnam veterans front and center. Lee bookends the movie with Ali and other black activist figures from the '60s, framing "Da 5 Bloods" as not just a war film but an inquiry into what patriotism means for African Americans.

"The narrative that's been painted of American heroism is John Wayne," says Lee. "So I felt it was appropriate that we have true American patriots."

Lee's timing is, as ever, prescient. His movie is arriving just as millions have taken to the streets to protest endemic racism and the death



This image released by Netflix shows, from left, Isiah Whitlock Jr., Norm Lewis, Clarke Peters, Delroy Lindo and Jonathan Majors in a scene from the Spike Lee film "Da 5 Bloods." AP

of George Floyd. The time couldn't be riper for a film that considers who "true Americans" really are.

"American patriotism is when you say: (Expletive) is (expletive)-ed up. People like Agent Orange who say, 'America, love it or leave it'—they're un-American," says Lee, using his favored nickname for President Donald Trump. "They're not patriotic. Anybody that tells black

folks 'America love it or leave it,' they need to get the (expletive) out of here because black folks built this (expletive)."

Lee, 63, has never been one to mince words but he was especially inclined to say it like it is during a recent interview by phone from his apartment on the Upper East Side where he's been quarantined with his wife, Tonya, and their two children, Satchel and Jackson. The unrest following

Floyd's death—which for some recalled Lee's "Do the Right Thing"—has yet again made Lee's movies all the more urgent. "Da 5 Bloods," his first film to confront Vietnam, further expands Lee's passionate, righteous and essential survey of American history and race, a roiling body of work that already spans the '60s of Malcolm X, post-Katrina New Orleans and contemporary Chicago.

It's about African American vets (Delroy Lindo, Clarke Peters, Isiah Whitlock Jr., Norm Lewis) returning to Vietnam to search for the remains of their fallen squad leader (Chadwick Boseman) and buried gold.

The contributions of black soldiers have long been underrepresented, but their minor roles in films of the Vietnam War—the first conflict after the start of the civil rights movement—is especially

egregious. African American troops accounted for 11% of troops in Vietnam (though only a fraction of officers). In 1965, they were 23% of all combat troops.

"We have been almost systematically disappeared from those experiences. Vietnam, when you look at 'Platoon,' 'Apocalypse Now,' black soldiers are on the peripheries—almost nonexistent," says Lindo.

Lindo recalls being especially upset by Oliver Stone's "Platoon," in which black soldiers are repeatedly seen either dying, fleeing or erring.

"I don't remember whether I walked out on the film but I do remember being completely disgusted," he says.

The original script for "Da 5 Bloods," by Danny Bilson and Paul De Meo, was titled "The Last Tour." It was written for white veterans and first brought to Stone. When that didn't go anywhere, Lee was drawn to its connections to "The Treasure of Sierra Madre," one of his favorites, and to its potential.

"I knew from the get-go that it was a great script but I wanted to flip it to tell it from the perspective of black Vietnam vets," says Lee.

Willmott and Lee scripted insertions of documentary footage but, once in the editing room, Lee would often be inspired to add more.

HBO Max removes 'Gone With the Wind,' will add context

NEW YORK (AP)—HBO Max has temporarily removed "Gone With the Wind" from its streaming library in order to add historical context to the 1939 film long criticized for romanticizing slavery and the Civil War-era South.

Protests in the wake of George Floyd's death have forced entertainment companies to grapple with the appropriateness of both current and past productions. On Tuesday, the Paramount Network dropped the long-running reality series "Cops" after 33 seasons. The BBC also removed episodes of "Little Britain," a comedy series that featured a character in blackface, from

its streaming service.

In an op-ed Monday in the Los Angeles Times, the filmmaker John Ridley urged WarnerMedia to take down "Gone With the Wind," arguing that it "romanticizes the Confederacy in a way that continues to give legitimacy to the notion that the secessionist movement was something more, or better, or more noble than what it was—a bloody insurrection to maintain the 'right' to own, sell and buy human beings."

In a statement, the AT&T-owned WarnerMedia, which owns HBO Max, called "Gone With the Wind" "a product of its time" that depicts racial prejudices.

"These racist depictions were wrong then and are wrong today, and we felt that to keep this title up without an explanation and a denouncement of those depictions would be irresponsible," said an HBO Max spokesman in a statement.

The company said that when "Gone With the Wind" returns to the recently launched streaming service, it will include "historical context and a denouncement of those very depictions, but will be presented as it was originally created, because to do otherwise would be the same as claiming these prejudices never existed."

Based on a 1936 book by Margaret Mitchell, "Gone With

the Wind" is a historical epic about a romance between Scarlett O'Hara (Vivien Leigh), the daughter of a Georgia plantation owner, and Rhett Butler (Clark Gable), a gambler who joined the Confederacy.

"Gone With the Wind" has long been denounced for featuring slave characters who remain loyal to their former owners after the abolition of slavery. It remains the highest-grossing film of all time when adjusted for inflation. It won eight Academy Awards including best picture and best supporting actress for Hattie McDaniel, the first black actress to be nominated or win an Oscar.

London mayor seeks answers over Taser use on rapper's father

LONDON (AP)—London's mayor has called for an urgent investigation after rapper Wretch 32 released a video of his father being tasered in his home by a British police officer.

The 36-second clip posted late Tuesday on Twitter shows police entering a house. An officer says "Police officer with a Taser. Stay where you are" before a man—62-year-old Millard Scott—tumbles down a flight of stairs. Police officers are then seen asking the man if he is OK.

Wretch 32 wrote: "This is how the police think they can treat a 62-year-old black man in Tottenham but this 1 happens to be my dad."

The rapper, 35, told ITV News there has been "no progression" since he grew up watching his father and his uncle "fight against police brutality."

"I now have to have the same conversations (with my children) that my dad and my uncle and my grandparents and my parents had with me," he said.

Large demonstrations have been held across the U.K. against racial injustice and police brutality since the May 25 death of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis, which has spurred a global tide of protest. Floyd was buried Tuesday in Houston after a funeral service at which speakers predicted he will be remembered forever for changing history.

London's Metropolitan Police confirmed that a stun gun was discharged during an April 21 raid in north London's Tottenham area targeting the supply of illegal drugs. The force said the Taser was used when a man "started moving towards an officer suddenly" and did not stop "after several warnings."

It said the man was not arrested and did not need medical treatment. Police said a 22-year-old man was arrested at the house and charged with encouraging another person to commit an offense and a 52-year-old woman was charged later with obstructing the police.

Cairo film festival's art director resigns amid controversy

CAIRO (AP)—The art director of Cairo's international film festival has resigned amid calls for his removal because of past inflammatory posts on social media, the festival said.

The resignation of Egyptian film critic Ahmed Shawky was announced Tuesday in a statement by the festival's advisory board. Shawky, who was acting artistic director of the 2019 festival, had been appointed

artistic director of this year's festival earlier this month.

That appointment brought criticism from activists and others who pointed to past comments Shawky made that apparently espouse violence. Those include referring to the death of dozens of Egyptian soccer fans in a notorious riot as them being "culled."

The statement said the festival would continue preparing for its 2020 edition

and "uphold our principles of championing diversity, bridging cultures, encouraging dialogue, celebrating new voices." The festival is scheduled for Nov 19-28.

In a lengthy statement Wednesday, Shawky said he resigned from the festival because he did not want to "imperil their image," while contending that he has been targeted by a "smear campaign accusing me of violence, sex-

ism and homophobia!"

He conceded that he did write "occasionally inappropriate posts" in 2013 and 2014 that were "directed towards a specific group of bigots and extremists." He said he "never meant to offend anyone."

Shawky said security authorities advised him to leave his home in Cairo to another "secret place" for fear about his safety after threats from soccer fanatics.

JK Rowling responds to critics over her transgender comments

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Harry Potter” creator J.K. Rowling said she refuses to “bow down” to criticism about her recent comments on transgender people.

Rowling published a lengthy post on her blog website Wednesday in response to the backlash and her concerns over “new trans activism.” She has been under hefty scrutiny about her thoughts on transgender identity from the LG-BTQ community along with Eddie Redmayne and Daniel Radcliffe, who starred in the Harry Potter film franchise.

“I refuse to bow down to

a movement that I believe is doing demonstrable harm in seeking to erode ‘woman’ as a political and biological class and offering cover to predators like few before it,” she said.

Rowling drew outrage Saturday on Twitter when she criticized an opinion piece published by the website Devex, a media platform for the global development community, that used the phrase “people who menstruate.” Rowling implied it should have said “women.”

The famed author continued with another thread speaking about the concept of biological sex. She said she felt compelled to tweet her thoughts about her experience with domestic abuse and sexual assault.

“I stand alongside the brave women and men, gay, straight and trans, who’re standing up for freedom of speech and thought, and for the rights and safety of some of the most vulnerable in our society: young gay kids, fragile teenagers, and women who’re reliant on and wish to retain their single sex spaces,” she said in her post Wednesday.

Rowling’s tweets caused a



In a Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019 file photo, author and Lumos Foundation founder J.K. Rowling attends the HBO Documentary Films premiere of “Finding the Way Home” at 30 Hudson Yards, in New York. **AP**

firestorm of responses from the LGBTQ community and others who were upset with her words. A Harry Potter fan group tweeted its disapproval of Rowling’s post and encouraged followers to donate to a group that supports back transgender women.

“It seems JK is good at only

one thing: writing fantasy,” the advocacy group GLAAD said in a statement Wednesday. “Her misinformed and dangerous missive about transgender people flies in the face of medical and psychological experts and devalues trans people accounts of their own lives.”

Redmayne, who starred in

two “Fantastic Beasts” films of the “Harry Potter prequel series, disagreed with Rowling’s comments on Twitter. The Oscar-winning actor said that his transgender friends and colleagues are tired of the “constant questioning of their identities.”

“Trans women are women, trans men are men and non-

binary identities are valid,” said Redmayne, who played a transgender woman in the 2015 film “The Danish Girl,” which earned him an Oscar nomination. He joined Radcliffe who also disapproved of Rowling’s thoughts on transgender identity.

“Trans people are who they say they are and deserve to live their lives without being constantly questioned or told they aren’t who they say they are,” said Emma Watson on Twitter on Wednesday. She starred as Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter film series.

On Monday, Radcliffe published a lengthy essay about Rowling’s tweets on a website for a nonprofit organization dedicated to crisis intervention and suicide prevention for LG-BTQ people. He said “transgender women are women.”

“Any statement to the contrary erases the identity and dignity of transgender people and goes against all advice given by professional health care associations who have far more expertise on this subject matter than either Jo or I,” the actor said.

Coachella, Stagecoach canceled this year over virus concerns

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Coachella and Stagecoach music festivals have been canceled this year due to coronavirus concerns.

Dr. Cameron Kaiser, Riverside County’s public health officer, signed an order Wednesday canceling the popular festivals outside Palm Springs. Health officials are concerned about a possible surge in coronavirus cases in the fall.

Coachella, a massive music and arts festival, and Stagecoach, a country music event, are typically held in April but were previously postponed until October.

Now, “given the projected circumstances and potential, I would not be comfortable moving forward,” Kaiser said.

Travis Scott, Calvin Harris and Frank Ocean were set to headline Coachella. The Stagecoach lineup included Lil Nas X, Carrie Underwood and Billy Ray Cyrus. Both festivals are held in Indio.

‘Live PD’ dropped by A&E on heels of ‘Cops’ cancellation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A&E Network has canceled the police reality series “Live PD” following weeks of protests inspired by the death of George Floyd and a report that a crew from the show filmed the arrest of a black man who died after he was restrained by police.

A&E Network has canceled the police reality series “Live PD” after weeks of protests inspired by the death of George Floyd and a report that a crew from the show filmed the death of another black man in police custody.

The cable network an-

nounced the move Wednesday, a day after the similar show “Cops,” on the air for 33 seasons, was dropped by the Paramount Network.

“This is a critical time in our nation’s history and we have made the decision to cease production on Live PD,” A&E said in a statement. “Going forward, we will determine if there is a clear pathway to tell the stories of both the community and the police officers whose role it is to serve them. And with that, we will be meeting with community and civil rights leaders as well as police departments.”

The cancellation also comes a day after a reports from the Austin American-Statesman and KVUE-TV that 40-year-old Javier Ambler, who was black, died in Texas last year after sheriff’s deputies repeatedly used stun guns on him, despite his cries for help and pleas that he was sick and couldn’t breathe.

Prosecutors who are investigating Ambler’s death said the presence of the “Live PD” crew made the arrest, which was captured on police body-camera video obtained by the news outlets, particularly troubling.

A&E said in a previous statement that its video never aired because of a policy against showing a death, and it did not keep the footage after it was informed the initial investigation had closed. A&E said neither the network nor the show’s producers “were asked for the footage or an interview by investigators from law enforcement or the District Attorney’s office.”

Just as Paramount Network did with “Cops,” A&E had already ceased airing episodes of “Live PD” before announcing Wednesday that it was

dropping the show altogether.

“Live PD,” which had been on the air since 2016, had a more news documentary approach than “Cops,” which let police speak almost entirely for themselves.

“Shocked & beyond disappointed about this,” the show’s host, veteran journalist Dan Abrams, said on Twitter. “To the loyal #LivePDNation please know I, we, did everything we could to fight for you, and for our continuing effort at transparency in policing. I was convinced the show would go on.”

Man asked to practice social distancing grows aggressive

DEAR ABBY: I encountered a frightening man in the hardware store the other day. I was standing at the counter paying for an item when a man behind me came at me, inches from my face, in an aggressive and threatening way. When I asked him if he could please step 6 feet away, he became even more hostile and accused me of asking in the wrong way.

In hindsight, I suppose I should have ignored him. But his words shook me. I didn’t speak disrespectfully to him. Although I was alarmed, I was polite. When I said I was just asking for the required space, he said he was showing me how thoughtless I am because I wasn’t wearing a mask or gloves. Neither was he, nor were the employees and some other shoppers. When I pointed that out, he countered even more loudly that I was the problem. I just shook my head and left. As I was leaving, he yelled after me that he hoped I got the virus and that he worked in a hospital.

The man was huge, at least double my size. He was clearly going out of his way to threaten me, if not to infect me. I know I should not have responded, but for my own safety, I needed to politely ask him to back away. If I’d had a smartphone, I might have called the police.

I go for a walk every day for exercise and to shop for necessary groceries. I have experienced people in aisles coming very close to me. I step aside to give space for others. Generally, most people are careful, respectful and even give a thank-you.

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



This man was aggressive for no reason. What should I have done other than just walk quickly away?

THREATENED IN OAKLAND, CALIF.

DEAR THREATENED: You did the right thing. I seriously doubt the person worked in or even near a hospital, because if he did, he would have taken the proper safety precautions. In these stressful times, people sometimes act out over perceived slights. With someone so angry, aggressive and clearly looking for trouble, the right thing to do was to get away as quickly and safely as possible. The man was lucky the store management didn’t eject him.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

DEAR ABBY: Several months ago, a friend of mine be-

haved badly and offended me and another dinner guest. His wife shut him down fairly quickly. The next day, when I tried to explain to him why what he did was inappropriate, he misinterpreted my comments and, because of his low self-esteem, became offended even though he was the offensive person. I immediately apologized but got no response. Anyone who understands basic psychology will recognize this defensive and deflective self-defense mechanism for what it was.

Abby, these are people I love dearly. Now they no longer speak to me, and I’m at a loss about what to do besides continue to pray for them. Advice?

MISSING MY DEAREST FRIENDS

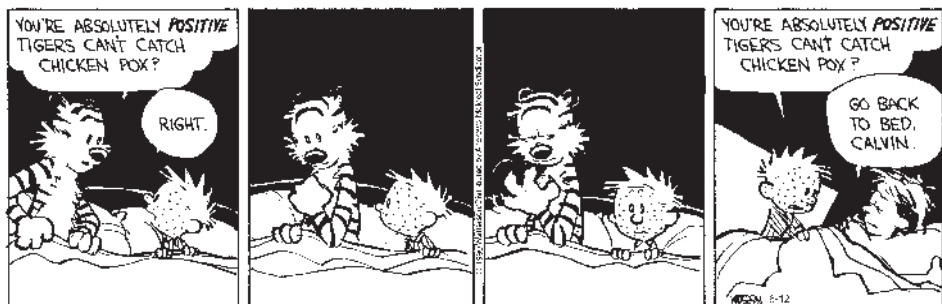
DEAR MISSING: Your former friend appears to be both aggressive and hypersensitive. Continue praying, but be careful what you pray for because this person appears to be very high-maintenance. Surely you can fill the emptiness with friends who are easier to get along with and who are willing to talk out difficult situations like adults. If you do, I guarantee your life will be less stressful.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



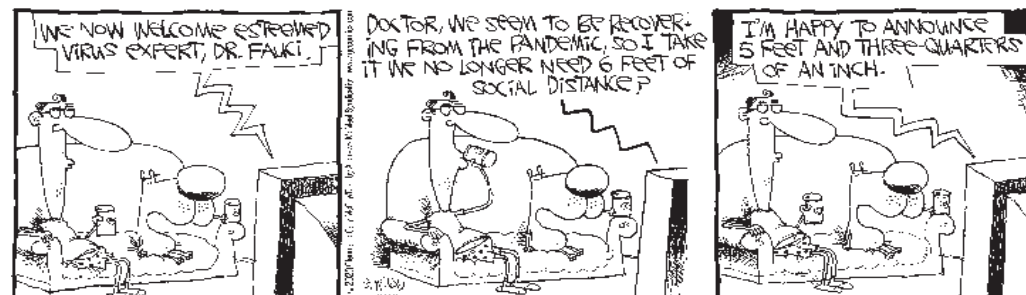
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

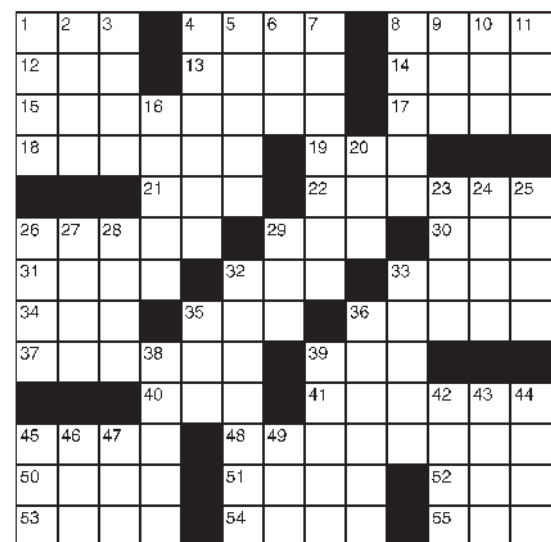
1 Night flier
4 Bake sale
8 Big knife
12 Sugary
13 New
14 Take a
15 Sowing
17 "I'm a
18 Area of
19 Droop
21 Roman
22 —
26 Tupper-
29 Farm
30 Pester
31 Greek
32 Mornings
33 Facts

DOWN

34 Sports-
54 Relaxed
55 Soak (up)
23 Body sci.
24 Blanchett
1 Pear type
2 On the
25 "Zounds!"
26 Composer
3 Adolescent
27 Western
4 Rose
28 Hindu
5 Singer
29 Ambu-
6 Goal
7 Play-
8 Online
9 Tic-tac-toe
10 Prune
11 Agrees to
16 Muffles
42 Doctrines
43 Lily
44 Office
45 Super
46 "You've
47 Numbered
49 Nest egg

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-12



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Kendra Wilkinson, 35; Dave Franco, 35; Scott Thompson, 61; Timothy Busfield, 63.

Happy Birthday: Take a good look around you before you carry out your plans. Not everyone will be on your side. Emotional matters will leave you in a precarious position. Know when to say no and when to let go of the past. How you handle and dissolve problems now will determine how well you do down the road. Focus on long-term goals. Your numbers are 2, 14, 23, 27, 30, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Revealing too much will work against you. Work quietly behind the scenes on goals that can help further your interests. A financial gain is possible if you handle matters yourself. Don't trust someone to look out for your interests. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's time to put your ideas and plans to work for you. Speak up, take action and follow through. Refuse to let what others do confuse or influence you. What you have experienced will be valuable when dealing with indecisive people. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep your emotions under control. If you give in to someone's persuasive tactics, you will end up wasting time. Consider what you want and the best way to go about getting your way, and do not deviate from your plans. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Embrace change. If you wait for someone to make the first move, you may miss out on something terrific. Follow your heart and intuition, and

you will find your way to greater satisfaction and personal happiness. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Spend more time living up to your expectations and less time worrying about what others are doing. Plan to pursue the path that best suits the skills, experience and knowledge you have worked so hard to master. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Proceed with caution. Don't take action until you understand the situation and the consequence that a mistake will propagate. It's best to take your time and do things right. A partnership will require an adjustment if it's going to work. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): How you see yourself may not be how others see you. Take a peek at the way you look and how you present yourself. An update will boost your morale and give you the confidence you need to reach your initiative. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take on a new challenge. Expanding your knowledge and interests will give you a chance to try something new and exciting. Figure out how best to invest in what you want to pursue without going into debt. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't waste time on someone who is giving you the runaround. If something doesn't seem right, distance yourself. Say no to temptation and yes to someone who brings out the best in you. Romance is in the stars. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The past can teach you many lessons that will help you prevent making a mistake. When dealing with relationships, you are wise to remember how you've been treated before you bend over backward trying to please someone. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Personal improvements can be made. Physical fitness, a healthy lifestyle and more time with someone you love will ease stress and make you feel good about life. A positive adjustment at home or to the way you live is favored. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Problems will arise if you let someone play with your emotions. Know when to say no. Your intuition won't let you down. If something doesn't seem right, it probably isn't. Walk away from situations that are indulgent. ***

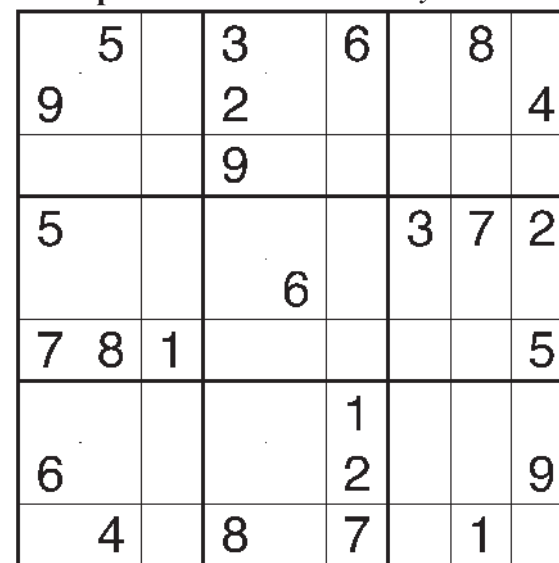
Birthday Baby: You are convincing, outspoken and creative. You are knowledgeable and sensitive.

visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



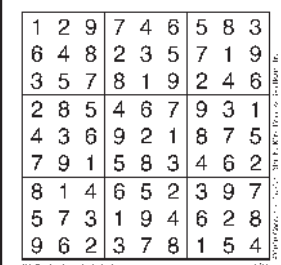
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/12

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GRANDMOTHERS ARE SPECIAL

Solution: 5 letters

S G N I R E P M A P E C I O V
L R R H T M R A W E R A C G A
I A E A F G M S A A D O R E L
O M A V N U R S Y B O A U E U
P M N N O N N I A K N B N D E
S Y I A O P I K Y D U R E Y S
T G N N L E E E M B A S S D E
R R N A O Y C E B E I S E E M
O A O A V N R I L W A E R T I
P N N L E E E O V S F L U O T
P D A I C B A B M D L F T V R
U M T S R E E H C E A L C E E
S A A T V A S I N G M E I D A
P A L E U B A T H U G S P K T
T H I N K I N G U I D I N G S

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Abuela, Adore, Advice, Babola, Bake, Bubble, Care, Cheers, Cook, Devoted, Feeds, Fun, Grammy, Grandma, Grand Mère, Grannie, Guiding, Hugs, Kiss, Learn, Listen, Love, Memory, Nana, Nonna, Nonnina, Ouma, Pampering, Patience, Pictures, Proud, Sassy, Savta, Selfless, Sing, Skills, Sleepovers, Spoils, Supports, Thinking, Time, Treats, Values, Voice, Warmth, Wise, Ya-Ya

Yesterday's Answer: Knives

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NBA players not returning won't be punished



NEW YORK—Last Friday, the NBA's return to play jumped over another hurdle with the NBA Players Association approving the terms to resume play in Orlando with a 22-team format after it was also approved by the NBA Board of Governors Thursday.

The NBA is slated to resume play on July 31.

But now a group of players are questioning the decision to restart the 2019-20 season in a "bubble environment" at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida.

According to ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski, a group of players have recently participated in a conference call to discuss if restarting the season in the Orlando bubble is a good idea.

This call comes as the NBA and NBPA are reportedly close to finalizing the return to play parameters. According to the report, the league and players association are expected to include a provision in the return to play framework that would not require players to play and they would not be subject to discipline for staying home. However, those players would lose a portion of their salary for any games missed.

With the NBA and Players Association nearing a final agreement on how it will all look for the season to restart, players have reportedly shared their hesitation on a number of issues. As Wojnarowski points out those worries include—"family concerns, COVID-19, social justice, and more."

The NBA Board of Governors voted on the 22-team resumption of play passed with a 29-1 vote. The Portland Trail Blazers were the only ones not to vote yes. CJ McCollum, who is the Trail Blazers team representative, applauded the front office and Jody Allen for listening to the players and their feedback ahead of the vote.

"The Board of Player Representatives of the National Basketball Players Association



AP
In this March 5, 2020 file photo, Houston Rockets' Russell Westbrook (0) drives toward the basket as Los Angeles Clippers' Ivica Zubac defends during the second half of an NBA game in Houston.

nally starting to listen to us — we feel like we're finally getting a foot in the door," James told the Times. "How long is up to us. We don't know. But we feel like we're getting some ears and some attention, and this is the time for us to finally make a difference."

James has regularly spoken on social issues throughout his career. Lately, he's leveraged his social media presence that includes 46.4 million Twitter followers to join the conversation around the George Floyd protests and social upheaval that has engulfed the nation since Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police on May 25.

On Tuesday, he put Georgia's primary elections in his crosshairs. The state with a history of voter disenfranchisement saw reports of hours-long waits at polling places in urban and minority neighborhoods while voting at predominately white, suburban polling places went relatively smoothly.

James seized the moment to call the voting system "structurally racist."

This appears to be the kind of issue James seeks to address with "More Than a Vote," rather than engaging in specific candidate advocacy. According to the Times, the group will be organized as a 501(c)(4) non-profit, which prohibits it from engaging directly in political campaigns for office.

Instead, James and others in the group intend to focus its efforts on issues affecting the black community and getting out the vote for the 2020 election. That includes raising awareness of voter suppression as fears of the political tactic to maintain power persist as November's elections approach. (**ESPN/AP**)

tion (NBPA) has approved further negotiations with the NBA on a 22-team return to play scenario to restart the 2019-20 NBA season," the NBPA announced in a statement Friday. "Various details remain to be negotiated and the acceptance of the scenario would still require that all parties reach agreement on all issues relevant to resuming play."

Last week, league sources said that the schedule may not be released until later this month or perhaps in early July.

Medical histories

Meanwhile, there's an ongoing debate about how the NBA should treat older coaches—Spurs' Gregg Popovich (71), Rockets' Mike D'Antoni (68)

and Pelicans' Alvin Gentry (65)—as the league resumes play amid the coronavirus pandemic. People 65 and older are generally at higher risk of suffering severe symptoms if they get coronavirus.

NBA team personnel are expected to be asked to submit personal medical histories to a panel of physicians who would review their individual risk of serious illness due to any spread of coronavirus in the NBA's bubble environment in Orlando, sources told ESPN.

It is unclear what authority, if any, that panel might have in prohibiting any personnel from attending Orlando—or placing limitations upon them—but there is some anxiety about such limitations among teams, sources said.

There are privacy concerns, even if the people behind this plan have good intentions.

NBA commissioner Adam Silver and other higher-ups at the league genuinely want to protect everyone in the bubble. However, people should usually decide for themselves how to live their own lives. So, that leaves a compelling debate on both sides. But here's what we can't get past: It would look very bad for the NBA if a coach got coronavirus during the restarted season and dies. There's just no way around that.

The law typically allows employees to decide on their own risk tolerance. But sometimes employees can be pushed toward discretion. As badly as he wanted to play

despite the Heat and NBA deeming it unsafe for him to continue, Chris Bosh retired without playing another game.

Like with many things, coronavirus leaves no easy solutions here—just difficult decisions.

LeBron forms group

LeBron James regularly uses his massive social media platform to tout his viewpoints.

Now he's formalizing that effort alongside a group of black athletes and entertainers in the form of a voting rights group.

James announced the effort called "More Than a Vote" in an interview with Jonathan Martin of The New York Times on Wednesday.

"Because of everything that's going on, people are fi-

LONDON (AP) — Roger Federer will miss whatever remains of the coronavirus-impacted 2020 tennis season because of a setback in his recovery from surgery on his right knee.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion had arthroscopic surgery on his knee in February and said Wednesday in a statement on Twitter that he had a second procedure that will delay his return until 2021.

The 38-year-old Federer had initially planned to be sidelined for at least four months, but because the tour was suspended amid the coronavirus pandemic

Federer out for remainder of 2020 after injury setback

ic he has barely missed any elite tennis.

"A few weeks ago, having experienced a setback during my initial rehabilitation, I had to have an additional quick arthroscopic procedure on my right knee," Federer posted. "Now, much like I did leading up to the 2017 season, I plan to take the necessary time to be 100% ready to play at my highest level."

"I will look forward to seeing everyone back on tour at the start of the 2021 season."

Like other sports, tennis has

been thrown into disarray because of the coronavirus pandemic, which has claimed more than 400,000 lives worldwide.

Wimbledon, the oldest Grand Slam tournament, was canceled for the first time since 1945. The next edition of the grass court tournament will be June 28 to July 11, 2021.

Organizers of the French Open and the U.S. Open are still hoping to stage their major tournaments this year.

The start of the French Open was postponed from late May to

late September. The U.S. Open recently said that it still hopes to hold the tournament as planned in New York. Main-draw play is scheduled to begin Aug. 31.

Federer had also planned to represent Switzerland at the Tokyo Olympics, trying to complete a career Golden Slam by winning a gold medal in men's singles. The games will now be staged in 2021.

Shortly before his initial surgery in February, Federer reached the semifinals of the Australian Open, where he lost

to defending champion Novak Djokovic 7-6 (1), 6-4, 6-3.

Djokovic later said: "Obviously, he was hurting. You could see it in his movement."

Federer, who turns 39 in August, missed much of the 2016 season to injuries. He returned in 2017 and won the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

Djokovic, who has 17 Grand Slam singles titles, is considering skipping the U.S. Open, if it is held. He told Serbia's state broadcaster RTS on Tuesday that the proposed restrictions because of the coronavirus

pandemic would be "extreme" and not "sustainable."

Meanwhile, Stacey Allaster is the U.S. Open's new tournament director, the first woman to hold that job at the American Grand Slam tennis tournament.

Allaster is a former CEO of the WTA women's tour and has worked at the U.S. Tennis Association since 2016, pushing for changes such as the serve clock and warmup clock and lobbying for coaching to be allowed during matches.

She will stay on as the USTA's chief executive of professional tennis, the association said Wednesday.



Tigers draft Arizona State's Torkelson with No. 1 pick



NEW YORK
(AP)—Spencer Torkelson

slugged his way through college, bashing baseballs all around the country with eye-popping power.

All those impressive drives made the decision easy for the Detroit Tigers, who selected the Arizona State star with the No. 1 pick in the Major League Baseball amateur draft Wednesday night.

But while Torkelson was long considered the favorite to go first overall, the surprise came when he was announced as a third baseman by Commissioner Rob Manfred. Detroit plans to move Torkelson to the hot corner from first base, where he played for the Sun Devils.

"It shows the amount of respect they have for me as an athlete," a smiling Torkelson said on the MLB Network broadcast. "I'll take it and run with it. I like to label myself as a baseball player, and you give me a bat, a ball and a glove, and you know what? I'm just going to want to win."

Arkansas outfielder Heston Kjerstad went No. 2 to Baltimore, which took Oregon State catcher Adley Rutschman with the top pick a year ago.

Shortened dramatically because of the coronavirus, the draft gave fans the closest thing they've had to a live big league baseball event since spring training was stopped in March. It came as owners and players continue contentious labor negotiations aimed at starting an abbreviated, pandemic-delayed season this summer—likely with no crowds in ballparks.

Not long before the first pick, Manfred said there is a "100%" chance MLB will play ball this year.



The Detroit Tigers selected the Arizona State star Spencer Torkelson with the No. 1 pick in the Major League Baseball amateur draft Wednesday night.

After having the worst record in the majors last season, Detroit opened the draft for the second time in three years. The Tigers took Auburn right-hander Casey Mize in 2018, and now they've got a powerful bat that could anchor their lineup for years to go along with an arm they hope is a future ace.

With power to all fields and a great eye at the plate, the 6-foot-1, 220-pound Torkelson established himself as college baseball's top slugger after going undrafted out of high school. He hit 54 home runs at Arizona State, two shy of the school record set by Bob Horner—who was drafted No. 1 overall in 1978.

Torkelson likely would have obliterated that mark if his college season hadn't been halted after just 17 games because of the pandemic. The Petaluma, California, native hit .340 with six homers and 11 RBI this year.

As the top overall pick, the slot value for his signing bonus is \$8,415,300.

"We know he can play first. But our scouts strongly feel that he can play third base, and that's our intent at this point," Detroit general manager Al Avila said on the ESPN broadcast. "He's exactly the type of player we hoped would be there for us to get with the top pick. Obviously, he's one of the most productive hitters in college history."

This year's draft originally was scheduled to take place for the first time in Omaha, Nebraska, as a lead-in to the College World Series. Instead, the COVID-19 outbreak caused MLB to make some drastic changes, including holding the draft remotely—much like the NFL did in April -- and shaving it from three days with 40 rounds to only two days and five rounds.

Manfred announced the first-round selections as usual from a podium at MLB Network studios in Secaucus, New Jersey. He also addressed racial injustice and the recent protests that have occurred all over the country and the world.

Executives from all 30 teams held up signs at the beginning of the broadcast that read: "Black Lives Matter. United For Change."

The shortened—and in some cases even canceled—college and high school baseball seasons presented unique challenges for big league scouting departments, which had to rely more on video of prospects in-

stead of attending games to help with their evaluations.

Perhaps that contributed to a record seven straight college players being selected to begin the draft.

After Torkelson and Kjerstad were picked, Miami took Minnesota right-hander Max Meyer; Kansas City selected Texas A&M lefty Asa Lacy; Toronto went with Vanderbilt shortstop Austin Martin; Seattle chose Georgia righty Emerson Hancock; and Pittsburgh picked New Mexico State shortstop Nick Gonzales.

Tennessee high school outfielder Robert Hassell ended the run on college players, going No. 8 to San Diego.

"We've seen the trend in this direction over the last number of years," Milwaukee scouting director Tod Johnson said after the Brewers took UCLA outfielder Garrett Mitchell at No. 20. "Those three years of development that players get when they go to college tells us a lot about them. It helps to make these decisions with more information. We have more of a statistical record for college players against quality competition."

"All those factors I think have trended toward moving toward a more college-heavy draft."

Florida high school outfielder Zac Veen was chosen by Colorado with the ninth pick, followed by the Los Angeles Angels selecting Louisville lefty Reid Detmers to round out the top 10.

Tampa Bay took Arizona State shortstop Alika Williams—a college teammate of Torkelson's—with the final pick of the first night at No. 37 overall.

Rounds 2-5 will be held Thursday, for a total of 160 players selected.

Torkelson became the fourth Arizona State player selected first overall, most of any school. He joined Horner, left-hander Floyd Bannister (1976) and outfielder Rick Monday, who was the top pick in baseball's inaugural June amateur draft in 1965.

Houston will have to wait until pick No. 72 before it makes its first selection after being stripped of its first- and second-round selections by Manfred as part of the team's punishment for breaking rules against using electronics to steal signs during games.

Boston lost its second-round pick for violating rules against in-game use of video to identify pitch signals.

Undrafted players need to wait until Sunday before they can sign with major league teams, who can offer signing bonuses only up to \$20,000 as agreed upon by Major League Baseball and the players' association.

US Soccer repeals rule that banned kneeling during anthem

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. Soccer's board of directors has voted to repeal a 2017 policy that required national team players to stand during the national anthem, a rule adopted after Megan Rapinoe knelt in support of Colin Kaepernick.

The board made the decision during a conference call, U.S. Soccer announced Wednesday.

Policy 604-1 states: "All persons representing a Federation national team shall stand respectfully during the playing of national anthems at any event in which the Federation is represented." The board passed the rule on Feb. 9, 2017.

A person with knowledge of the discussions regarding the policy said new President Cindy Parlow Cone first

broached repealing the rule last week, calling for the special meeting of the board. The person asked to remain anonymous because the process was not made public. Three players were invited on the call to share their opinions.

"We have not done enough to listen—especially to our players—to understand and acknowledge the very real and meaningful experiences of Black and other minority communities in our country. We apologize to our players—especially our Black players -- staff, fans, and all who support eradicating racism," U.S. Soccer said in a statement Wednesday. "Sports are a powerful platform for good, and we have not used

our platform as effectively as we should have. We can do more on these specific issues and we will."

The U.S. Soccer Athletes' Council, which includes current national team players Alex Morgan and Ali Krieger, as well as former players like Landon Donovan, called on U.S. Soccer to also apologize for the policy to foster a "positive relationship to exist going forward."

"Then and only then do we feel a new chapter between the USSF and its athletes can begin. Additionally, we urge US Soccer to develop a plan with action items focused on anti-racism that will be shared publicly with its athletes, key stakeholders, and

fans," the council said in a statement earlier this week.

The U.S. Women's National Team Players Association also called for an apology from U.S. Soccer and a plan to substantively address racial inequality.

"Until USSF does so, the mere existence of the policy will continue to perpetuate the misconceptions and fear that clouded the true meaning and significance of Colin Kaepernick, Megan Rapinoe and other athletes taking a knee—that Black people in America have not been and continue to not be afforded the same liberties and freedoms as white people and that police brutality and systemic racism exist in this country," the players said in a statement.



NFL considering cutting 2020 preseason schedule



LOS ANGELES — The NFL and NFLPA are discussing the possibility of shortening the 2020 preseason, per sources.

Nothing finalized or imminent, but multiple team executives informed of talks currently believe they could end up playing two preseason games, rather than four.

Shortening the preseason would allow for a longer “ramp-up” period, regardless of whether players agree to report a week or two early, and provide extra time for medical experts to finalize game-day protocols for testing, etc.

As the NFL barrels into one of the most uncertain summers in league history, it makes sense that the league would revisit this issue with more serious intent. Preseason NFL rosters allow for 90 players, which will create logistical headaches for teams as they operate under the new safety protocols mandated by the league. Even before the NFL had to account for the coronavirus pandemic, playing four preseason games was becoming increasingly unpopular across the league; coaches like Matt Nagy and the Rams’



In this Feb. 2, 2020 file photo, Damien Williams (26) of the Kansas City Chiefs gives a stiff arm to the San Francisco 49ers’ Jimmie Ward during the fourth quarter of Super Bowl LIV at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, Florida.

Sean McVay made news for not playing their starters at all.

Things look a bit different in 2020, though—at least in Chicago. Nagy’s already committed to playing the starters in preseason games this season, as the team obviously needs those snaps to determine, you know, who the Bears’ starting quarterback will be.

Virtual QB coaching summit

Meanwhile, the NFL and the

Black College Football Hall of Fame will hold a virtual version of their quarterback coaching summit, a third-year project aimed at improving the league’s diversity.

Los Angeles Chargers coach Anthony Lynn is among the pro and college coaches planning to participate in the June 22-23 event. Pittsburgh Steelers president Art Rooney II, chairman of the NFL’s workplace diversity committee, is among the panelists.

Topics will include building a coaching staff, the fundamentals of playing quarterback and best practices for career advancement. Past participants of the league’s diversity coaching fellowship program have been invited.

“From professional development to networking to coaching best practices, this summit should leave no doubt about the promising pipeline of championship play-callers within the sport of football,”

said Troy Vincent, the NFL’s executive vice president of football operations.

The summit is one of several NFL programs intended to build the coaching and personnel development pipelines and strengthen diversity across the league.

“We are excited to continue this partnership with the National Football League as qualified coaches and executives come together to advance their careers,” said Doug Williams, a Super Bowl-winning quarterback with Washington and co-founder of the Canton, Ohio-based Black College Football Hall of Fame.

Others expected to participate are offensive coordinators Eric Bieniemy (Kansas City) and Byron Leftwich (Tampa Bay) and San Francisco defensive coordinator Robert Saleh. Former Minnesota coach Leslie Frazier, now the assistant head coach and defensive coordinator in Buffalo, also is on the list.

Last year’s event was held at historically black Morehouse College in Atlanta. It connected about three dozen participants with NFL club coaches and executives to help identify and develop di-

verse candidates for offensive coaching positions.

In other developments, C.J. Mosley is finally healthy and ready to be a force again in the middle of the New York Jets’ defense.

The star middle linebacker missed almost all of last year in his first season with his new team because of a groin/core muscle injury. But Mosley has been given a good report from the doctors and expects to have no limitations during training camp.

“I’m cleared to do everything,” Mosley said Wednesday during a video conference call. “I’ve been working with my trainers every week, as far as workouts and rehab. Once we get back in the building, whenever that is, we’ll go from there.”

Mosley was one of the Jets’ biggest additions last offseason, signing a five-year, \$85 million deal after five terrific seasons in Baltimore.

The linebacker, who turns 28 next week, made a huge impact in his regular-season debut with the Jets. He had five tackles, recovered a fumble and returned an interception for a touchdown against Buffalo, but hurt his groin late in the third quarter while knocking away a pass.

Mosley returned six weeks later for a Monday night matchup against New England, but was still bothered by the injury. Mosley ended up missing the rest of the season. He tried to avoid surgery before ending up doing so in December.

He has done much of his rehabilitation and workouts in his basement at home in New Jersey for the last few months during the coronavirus pandemic.

FIFA

From Page 28

“It’s every player’s dream to play in World Cup. For us, even in World Cup qualifiers, we wish to see that dream come true someday,” said Mita.

Sekiguchi, besides wishing the CNMI to get FIFA membership, also hopes to see the Commonwealth challenge Japan’s national team.

“I want to see that game—NMI vs Japan—and we will all watch together,” said Sekiguchi.

“That would be a game for a lifetime,” said Footcast with Norman host and NMIFA Executive Committee member Norman Del Rosario said.

Meanwhile, *Footcast with Norman* will continue this Saturday with Episode 5 featuring

the CNMI Women’s National Team’s first victory (against Macau, 7-0, in the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup Preliminary

Round 1 in Guam). Joining Del Rosario in the 8pm discussion are Carrie Schuler, Emily Maxberry, Meg Silberberger,

Gabrielle Race, Mikky Vargas, Neeka Atalig, and Chevy Alipio, who all played for the winning team in 2014.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2009 file photo, former CNMI coach Sugao Kambe, standing right, poses with the U13 national youth developmental team before their training session at the Garapan Elementary School Field.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers hold the FIFA Fair Play flag during the opening ceremony for the 2019 Marianas Cup in Guam.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2017 file photo, CNMI coach Michiteru Mita, fourth left, joins his counterpart in a press conference for the Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2018 Qualifiers in Bangkok, Thailand.

SHORT

From Page 28

significant strikes per minute compared to Frevola’s 3.19. Camacho’s strikes accuracy, as expected, is better than his opponent, 46%-39%.

If the collision between Camacho and Frevola goes down to the canvas, Frevola’s grappling skills will be very useful. Frevola, who holds a purple belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, averaged 3.30 takedowns (per 15 minutes), while Camacho only had 1.18. The Longo & Weidman MMA standout also had a better number defending a takedown with his 75% against Camacho’s 72%.

In other stats, Camacho and

Frevola are pretty even with the former’s arm reach at 73 inches against the latter’s 71. Frevola has the slight edge in the leg reach at 40 compared to Camacho’s 38. The 5’10” Camacho and 5’9” Frevola both have an orthodox fighting stance.

The 31-year old Camacho and Frevola will slug it out in a lightweight class on June 20 at the UFC Apex in Las Vegas, Nevada. Camacho will be gunning for his 23rd win in 31 fights, while Frevola will be eyeing his ninth victory in 11 matches.

The Camacho-Frevola tussle will be the seventh supporting bout to the main event that will feature Illinois’ Curtis Blaydes and Russia’s Alexander Volkov.



NBA players
not returning
won't be
punished

PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune Sports

Tigers draft
Arizona State's
Torkelson with
No. 1 pick

PAGE 26



28 FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Coaches wish for NMI's entry to FIFA

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Coaches Sugao Kambe, Kiyoshi Sekiguchi, and Michiteru Mita closed out last Saturday's Episode 4 of *Footcast with Norman* with a wish list for CNMI soccer.

On top of it is Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's membership to the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, the highest governing body of the sport with over 200 members across six regional federations.

"Becoming a FIFA member means more opportunities to play in high-level tournaments for the CNMI. It will give players more experience in international play and more opportunity to learn and improve their games," said Kambe, who coached the CNMI men's and women's national teams in 2008.

The CNMI, through the NMIFA, has taken the neces-

sary steps to gain FIFA membership. NMIFA sought and was granted full membership to the East Asian Football Federation. It has also gained associate membership status with the Asian Football Confederation, while full membership to AFC will move the CNMI closer to joining the FIFA family.

"Getting FIFA membership is very important because this will give the CNMI more resources, which it can use to further develop its program. As what coach Kambe said, there will be many opportunities—financial, technical, administrative, and others—available for the CNMI when



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2018 file photo, CNMI U15 Boys National Team captain Taka Borja (7) keeps a close eye on a Japan player during their game in the East Asian Football Federation U15 Boys Tournament in Xianghe, China.

Short fistfight favors 'The Crank'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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Statistics-wise, Frank "The Crank" Camacho's chances of win-



ning over Matt "The Steamrolla" Frevola in next week's UFC

Fight Night 173 are higher if the duel will finish quickly.

In the tale of the tape between the two MMA fighters, Camacho's winning percentage in bouts decided via KO/TKO is 72% (16 wins) compared to Frevola's measly 13% (out of his eight victories, he recorded just one off TKO/KO). While the 30-year-old is not known for going for the kill early, Frevola's percentage in matches won via either submission or decision is better than Camacho's. The New York native has a winning percentage of 37 via submission and 50 off decision, while Camacho's numbers read at both 14%.

A standup fight would also favor the Marianas warrior, as he averaged 6.68

See SHORT on Page 27



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Frank "The Crank" Camacho, third left, poses with his fellow MMA fighters after a training session in Las Vegas last weekend.

it gets FIFA membership," said Sekiguchi, who took over the reins from Kambe and handled the Commonwealth's national teams in 2010-2011 and 2014-2016.

Mita, the current CNMI coach and NMIFA technical

director, on the other hand, mentioned one of the "privileges" that FIFA member-countries get—to play in World Cup qualifiers.

See FIFA on Page 27



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2015 file photo, former CNMI national team coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi delivers a message to attendees of a Northern Mariana Islands Football Association-organized event.